FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 018 *28 January 1985*

ARGENTINA

Interior Minister Denies Alfonsin in Danger B 1
Ambassador Invites Alfonsin To Visit Cuba B 1
Alfonsin Message Outlines 1985 Budget Objectives B 1
Grinspun Discusses Debt Negotiations Results B 2
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 22 Jan]
Explains Wage Policy B 3
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 23 Jan]
CGT, Business Fail To Agree on Economic Plan B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Jan]
Nuclear Project Threatened by Financial Problems B 4
[LA PRENSA 24 Jan]
Food Suppliers Cut Off Service to Army Units B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Jan]
Peronist Party Congress President Removed B 5

BOLIVIA

Coup Rumors Increase, Economic Crisis Continues C 1
COB Declares Labor in State of Emergency C 1
Exiled Officers Deny Their Arrest in Spain C 2
Ministry Officials on U.S. Aid in Anti-Drug Fight C 2

CHILE

Finance Minister Reports on IMF Negotiations E 1
Economy Minister Says Debtors Club Not Possible E 1
Curfew Lifted in Santiago, Valparaiso Areas E 1
Acting Minister Comments E 2
AD Scores Siege, Considers Leadership Plan E 2
Carabineros Arrest Student Summer Volunteers E 3

ECUADOR

Border Closed on Eve of Pope's Arrival G 1
Official Discusses Topics for OPEC Meeting G 1

PARAGUAY

Stroessner Discusses Health, U.S., Succession H 1
Mopoco Leaders Arrested, Warned, Released H 2
[ULTIMA HORA 25 Jan]

PERU

Reaction to Amnesty International Report Continues J 1
Government Issues Communique J 1
Percovich on Allegations J 1
Organization Criticized J 2
Commission Member on Report J 3

VENEZUELA

Pope John Paul II Begins Tour in Caracas L 1
Arrives 26 January L 1
Welcomed by Lusinchi L 1
Speaks at Airport L 1
Appeals for Social Justice L 2
Iran's Musavi, Leaders Discuss OPEC, Relations L 3

PANAMA

PRD Statement Supports Joint Exercises With U.S. N 1
[MATUTINO 25 Jan]
Cocina Urges Suspension of U.S. Aid to Military N 1
[LA PRENSA 25 Jan]
ALASEI News Agency Opens Branch Office N 2
[THE STAR AND HERALD 26 Jan]

CENTRAL AMERICA

Contadora Urges Costa Rica, Nicaragua Cooperation P 1

BELIZE

Esquivel, Lindo Return From Visit to Houston P 1

COSTA RICA

Contadora Deputy Ministers Meeting Requested P 1
Government Refuses To Grant Asylum to Cuban P 2
Effects of Possible U.S.-Nicaraguan Agreement P 2
[LA REPUBLICA 20 Jan]

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Says Problems May Lead to Destabilization P 3
On D'Aubuisson, Pope P 4
ARENA's D'Aubuisson Criticizes PDC 'Slanders' P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 25 Jan]
D'Aubuisson Opens ARENA Campaign, Condemns PDC P 5
Army Reportedly Captures North Korean 'Mercenary' P 7
[EL MUNDO 25 Jan]
Bomb Near U.S. Embassy Causes Power Outage [Venceremos] P 8
FMLN Ends National Transportation Strike 25 Jan [Venceremos] P 8

GUATEMALA

Feb Talks To Be Held With UK, Not Belize P 9
[EL GRAFICO 25 Jan]
Briefs: New Ambassador to U.S. P 9

HONDURAS

Suazo Discusses U.S. Negotiations, Democracy P 10
Nicaraguan Army Squad Reportedly Enters Country P 11
[San Jose Radio Impacto]

NICARAGUA

Iran's Musavi, Delegation Conclude Visit P 12
Musavi Meets Ortega [IRNA] P 12
Denies Arms Deliveries P 12
Holds Press Conference [IRNA] P 13
Official on Supplying Oil [LA PRENSA 25 Jan] P 13
FRG's Moellemann Meets National Assembly Leaders P 15
Views Contadora Support P 15
French Senate Delegation Arrives for Visit P 16
Delegation Departs for OLADE Meeting in Brazil P 16
Ortega on Defense, Military Mobilization P 16
Humberto Ortega Views Amnesty, Military Situation P 17
Tirado Denounces 'U.S. Militaristic Policy' P 19
Inter-American Defense Board Participation Explained P 20
Msgr Vega on Dialogue With Government, Amnesty P 20
[LA PRENSA 25 Jan]
Assembly Secretary Comments on Amnesty Law P 22
[BARRICADA 24 Jan]
Rama Indians Return Home, Seek Amnesty P 23
Misura, Creoles Group Rejects Pact With FSLN P 24
[San Jose Radio Impacto]
Pastora on Costa Rican Leftists' Plans, Contadora P 25
[San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE 12 Jan]

CUBA

Castro Discusses U.S. Talks, Central America Q 1
[Madrid EL PAIS 20 Jan]
Castro Receives U.S. Bishops Delegation Q 5
Willing To Meet With Pope [DPA] Q 5
Commentary Views Discovery Flight, 'Star Wars' Q 5
Unrest, IMF Measures in Dominican Republic Viewed Q 6

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Government Raises Prices of Basic Products R 1
Riots Erupt R 1
Quiet Reported R 1

CARIBBEAN

Mexican Delegation Concludes Caricom Talks S 1

BARBADOS

DLP Expects Adams To Call General Elections S 1

GRENADA

Diplomatic Relations Broken With North Korea S 2
Police Force Grows to 475 With New Recruits S 2

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Hudson Tannis Elected SVLP Political Leader S 2

GUYANA

PNC To Begin 'Constructive Dialogue' With PPP T 1
Anticolonialist Independent Party Created T 2
TUC on Tax Increases, Wage Hike, Cost of Living T 2

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES ALFONSIN IN DANGER

PY252140 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2056 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (DYN) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli today stressed that "there are absolutely no indications that an attack on President Raul Alfonsin could be possible" during his stay in India and explained that the security measures surrounding the Argentine chief executive are controlled by the domestic situation in this Asian country.

In response to a telephone call from DYN, Troccoli stated that security measures have been stepped up because of India's situation, which undoubtedly calls for the strictist measures in the wake of the serious recent episode in which Indira Gandhi was killed.

The minister was questioned because of the unprecendented decision announced in New Delhi today to replace the traditional open carriage with an armor-plated limousine to carry the Indian president and the Argentine head of state, who is attending the national day parade as a guest of honor. "There is absolutely no indication that an attack on President Raul Alfonsin could be possible," Troccoli told DYN. He added that other security measures, such as a careful check of the palace where Alfonsin is staying against any possible attack and hidden microphones, are part "of the routine procedures followed in every country whenever a foreign dignitary is visiting."

AMBASSADOR INVITES ALFONSIN TO VISIT CUBA

PY252035 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1533 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Jan (NA) -- Today, upon receiving an invitation to visit Cuba from the Cuban ambassador to India, President Alfonsin is considering the possibility of visiting that country. Fidel Castro's official invitation was delivered by the Cuban diplomat at a reception in the Argentine Embassy here this afternoon. President Alfonsin expressed appreciation for the invitation and said he would be pleased to consider it. He also expressed his thanks for the box of cigars sent by the Cuban leader.

ALFONSIN MESSAGE OUTLINES 1985 BUDGET OBJECTIVES

PY231537 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0025 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) -- A presidential message of almost 30 pages will be submitted to Congress along with the 1985 budget draft law. The message underlines the objective of drastically reducing the inflation rate during the next fiscal year to facilitate economic growth, increase real salaries and consumption, and promote public and private investment.

In the message, the president foresees moderate economic growth for 1985 and points out that the transition budgetary process that began in the previous fiscal year must be continued. The message also says that public utility rates will not be allowed to lag behind their real cost and that the economic indexes, currently changed every 30 days, will be estimated for longer periods.

The message was signed by the president today and will be submitted to Congress this week after being revised by the Economy Ministry. It points out that the provinces will have to finance their expenses with their own resources and that shared revenues [impuestos coparticipados] will amount to 50.4 percent of tax revenues, including the oil tax surplus that previously went into the national treasury.

The message foresees that the nonfinancial deficit will drop to 7.5 percent of the GNP, a figure that compares well with the previous fiscal year deficit, which amounted to 9.98 percent of the GNP. The document also states that tax revenues will increase by 19 percent in real terms and that, consequently, the tax burden will be about 23 percent of the GNP.

Regarding the exchange rate system, the document says that it will be simplified to adjust the balance of payments and favor a more liberal policy leading to an exchange rate favorable for exports. The message says that the exchange rate will be established in keeping with the trade balance targets agreed upon with the IMF; it adds that the nominal exchange rate will not be used as an anti-inflationary tool.

Concerning foreign trade, the document stresses the need to promote exports, particularly nontraditional exports. To improve the situation, the president stresses the need to reduce withholding fees [retencion a las exportaciones] in order to increase the trade balance surplus.

In his message, the president says that the government is convinced that the reduction of the deficit is a precondition for fighting inflation, although this is not enough because under the current circumstances, a drastic drop in the deficit could provoke a recession. The president adds that it is necessary to promote private investment and that this calls for stability as far as investors' expectations are concerned.

The message points out that efforts must be made in the fiscal and monetary areas, establishing economic indexes for longer periods. It also explains that the price control policy will be made more flexible and the importation policy more liberal. In his message, Alfonsin says the public and private investment shall be fostered, that the necessary technological changes will be introduced, and that priority treatment will be given to investments for the production of goods sold on the international market.

GRINSPUN DISCUSSES DEBT NEGOTIATIONS RESULTS

PY220215 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, who returned yesterday morning from foreign debt rescheduling negotiations in Europe, described the results of those negotiations as "optimal" and denied that he had submitted a tax reform draft law to President Raul Alfonsin or that there would be any changes in connection with the secrecy of bank accounts or share anonymity.

However, Central Bank Vice-President Leopoldo Portnoy yesterday voiced his support for reforms in the areas of banking and share secrecy, saying that there was no such secrecy in other countries. Nevertheless, Portnoy said that the government had not drafted any legislation to end share anonymity or banking secrecy. In an article in the business daily EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, Portnoy also advocated reducing the banking sector to a more realistic size.

Grinspun went straight from Ezeiza Airport to Olivos presidential residence in order to brief Alfonsin on the results of his negotiations and finalize details of the 1985 budget before the latter's departure to India yesterday afternoon. At the airport Grinspun told repoters that there would be no reduction of military spending but on the contrary "a slight increase". Nor would federal aid to Buenos Aires Province be slashed as feared by Governor Alejandro Armendariz, he said. Public sector investment would be a keynote of the budget, he also told reporters.

Grinspun also huddled yesterday with ministerial colleagues in order to discuss wage policy and met a Soviet trade delegation headed by Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Victor Ivanov. After the meeting, Ivanov said that the Soviet Union would continue to give preference to grain purchases from Argentina but pressed for a more equitable trade balance between the two countries.

The Radical minister stressed that his success in foreign debt negotiations had provided the country a breathing-space for 1985 while admitting that it was not a final solution. Fully 90 percent of Argentina's debt with the Club of Paris group of countries had been rescheduled over 10 years with a five-year grace period, he informed reporters.

Grinspun said there would be no changes in the laws governing foreign investment because "none are necessary". "We are much more interested in domestic savers", he added. However, he pronounced himself against bills to nationalize banking and foreign trade. Nor would there be any changes in the restrictions covering British firms, he said. He denied that the recent kidnapping of cattleman Ricardo Lanusse had enhanced Argentina's reputation for instability in Europe, pointing out that the story failed to make the European press.

Meanwhile, a highly placed government source expressed confidence that Grinspun would remain in his post because of the "remarkable success" of his negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), foreign banks, the Club of Paris and other creditors and because of the "respect he commands in international banking circles."

Explains Wage Policy

PY231807 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Inflation this month "will be higher than in January of last year" (12.5 percent) but "measures will be taken so that in February and March this picture will change totally," Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun said yesterday after a three-hour socio-economic cabinet meeting to study wages and price rises.

However, Grinspun's estimate was made to seem an understatement by an article in yesterday's issue of the business daily AMBITO FINANCIERO, which estimates an inflation rate of more than 24 percent for this month.

Grinspun also said that cabinet ministers and socio-economic contract participants expected to meet tomorrow would discuss "wage guidelines for 1985 as well as the mechanisms which lead to a return to collective wage contracts." Asked to explain the recent wage adjustment and hike, Grinspun inferred that the six percent wage adjustment originally announced for December actually corresponds to this month. "There is a 14 percent (hike) plus a six-percent (adjustment) in the cases corresponding to 1984, which together make 20.8 percent to be paid in January; in case this additional six percent is not enough, a similar one will be paid in February." He said as well that ministry specialists will give the tax reform bill a "final going-over" next Monday and that by the time President Raul Alfonsin returns from abroad "we'll be in the final stages of a total restructuring of the financial system."

The government yesterday issued four decrees granting the six-percent for January to court employees, state bank clerks, and upper-level employees in public administration and state firms. One of the decrees set the monthly salary for a Supreme Court Judge at $a210,886 [pesos]. This salary, in turn, is used as a peg for lower-level court wages.

Domestic Trade Secretary Alfredo Concepcion yesterday reacted to the AMBITO article by saying the government intended to "summon companies in order to review the (price) situation and agree on more prudent prices." The inflation estimate, calculated by former Economy Minister Lorenzo Sigaut, showed prices rose by 28.8 percent in the third week of this month as against the equivalent week in December, the highest such rise since the last week of 1984. Food and beverages will chalk up a rise of 30.6 percent this month according to the Sigaut figures. Concepcion rejected the Sigaut estimates, although he admitted that price trends were "irregular". He accused businessmen of abusing their new freedom from price controls.

Economy Ministry sources reported late Monday night that the government has decided not to fully pay the 22.2-percent wage adjustment for the last quarter of 1984. Instead of paying the full adjustment, which is based on the difference between projected and actual inflation, the government has decided to only pay the six percent adjustment calculated for December, the sources said.

Grinspun and Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli are to meet at 5 p.m. this afternoon with Radical Party governors to lay the foundations for a new agreement on the federal revenue-sharing system, government sources said yesterday.

A high-level Economy Ministry source yesterday said that the 1985 budget bill will be sent to Congress this week. In Tucuman Lower House majority leader Cesar Jaroslavsky predicted that the budget could pass to the Senate by the beginning of March. Part of the budget bill proposes to keep real wages at the same level as last year, the source stated.

CGT, BUSINESS FAIL TO AGREE ON ECONOMIC PLAN

PY260140 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 85 p 7

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA) -- Business and the Unified CGT failed to reach agreement on a 20-point alternative plan that was to have been presented at yesterday's round of socioeconomic contract talks. Instead, CGT leaders and representatives of the nine business organizations met with Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli and Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, with all sides agreeing to immediately form three work groups to study President Raul Alfonsin's contract plan, short-run economic conditions, and the issues of workers' social benefit funds and trades unions.

CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini afterwards said a new contract meeting will be held on Monday at the Economy Ministry to discuss 1985 wage policy. The wage issue was not discussed last night. Ubaldini added that Monday's meeting would be followed by one on Thursday to study the president's contract proposal.

Business and the CGT were near an accord on Wednesday to jointly present an alternative plan to Alfonsin's socio-economic proposal. But agreement was blocked by failure to agree on the sensitive issue of who should administer the social benefit funds.

NUCLEAR PROJECT THREATENED BY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

PY261500 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Jan 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The Atucha II Debts"]

[Text] The companies supplying the building materials for the Atucha II nuclear energy plant have stopped working and dismissed or suspended their personnel because the government has failed to make the payments due this month.

The government debt that has fallen due since 1984 totals 6 billion pesos. In view of this, the Atucha II executives and workers, together with the president of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), have reported the problem to some national congressmen. In talks with the congressmen, the CNEA president stated that the executive branch "will negotiate the payment of the debt during the socioeconomic contract talks." The suppliers have said it is impossible for them "to rehire the personnel, because we do not know if we can pay them, and there is no material to work on."

Regarding the latter problem it should be recalled that in 1984 it cost Argentina about $11 million to store materials for Atucha II that the suppliers had left in the port of Hamburg and that the CNEA never took delivery of. The CNEA president added that these storage costs will be financed by an FRG supplier company. He also said that the CNEA has failed to meet payments totaling 11 billion pesos, including the 6 billion pesos that are now being claimed. He concluded by saying that the president has decided that "the first priority will be to finish the Atucha II and Arroyito projects in order to connect them to the Interconnected National Electricity System in 1989" and to "grant the CNEA the funds necessary to continue research and the plans to develop the nuclear fuel cycle and enrich uranium."

It is well known that the government is facing serious economic and financial difficulties, but certain projects, such as those we have mentioned, must not be paralyzed, because this would lead to a regrettable delay in the nation's development. Government economists, in their bureaucratic aloofness, failed to punctually pay the large sum for the storage costs of the material intended for Atucha II, and this has then led to the project being halted. The government does not seem to be concerned about this serious event, perhaps because the obligatory congressional controls were not complied with. If Congress called on the ministers responsible for such acts to render account, the authorities would be more assiduous in the management of public administration. The Atucha II case is another example of government carelessness.

FOOD SUPPLIERS CUT OFF SERVICE TO ARMY UNITS

PY252355 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Army foodstuffs suppliers in the Greater Buenos Aires area will again cut off service to Campo de Mayo and other bases as of Monday after the Defense Ministry failed to keep its promise of paying up past debts by December 25, the La Plata suppliers' association announced in a statement yesterday.

Other areas expected to be affected by the suppliers' protests are the La Plata Army base and the Magdalena tank division -- where last month commanders gave all conscripts an early leave because of a similar protest.

PERONIST PARTY CONGRESS PRESIDENT REMOVED

PY261820 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Mar del Plata, 26 Jan (DYN) -- Deputy Juan Jose Minichilo has reported that the board of the Justicialist National Congress resolved today to remove party leader Raul Bercovich Rodriquez from his post as president of the party congress for having "violated the national organization charter." Minichilo explained that the measure was taken with regard to the upcoming congress on 1 February and that the resolution tends to "promote actions according to the rules of the national organization charter and the resulting intervention of the disciplinary tribunal."

COUP RUMORS INCREASE, ECONOMIC CRISIS CONTINUES

PY270030 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1958 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 26 Jan (TELAM-REUTER) -- The serious Bolivian economic crisis has caused social conflicts to deepen and have caused coup rumors to increase in the past few hours. One of the most concerning statements, according to diplomatic sources, is that attributed to U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Edwin Corr, who said that he did not rule out the possibility of being wrong when he said that a coup would not take place today. In turn, the Bolivian presidency is alert to the military situation.

Conflicting statements from diplomatic and political circles have increased since last night. Both circles agree that the serious economic crisis alone would not prompt a coup. The economic crisis has worsened in the past 3 days with the tumbling of the dollar exchange rate, which is a standard market indicator for more than 90 percent of the Bolivian economy. The dollar exchange rate had risen from 30,000 to more than 100,000 Bolivian pesos, thus provoking an inevitable price increase for nearly all staples. Despite this dollar rate fluctuation, the official dollar exchange rate continues to be 8,571 Bolivian pesos.

The U.S. ambassador told journalists at his residence last night that he doubted that a coup would take place in the next few hours, but he added that if they phone me to tell me tomorrow, it could be that I am mistaken.

In turn, Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez, one of President Siles' closest advisers, was questioned about the rumors, since he was still at Government House this morning after going there last night. He denied that military deployments would be taking place, however, he said that he was alert to any situation.

Since rumors of a coup increased this morning, diplomatic sources said that the Bolivian economic risis has worsened in such a way that it requires urgent and drastic measures to bring it under control, but they also admitted that the government is not in a position to adopt such measures.

In turn, Fernando Illanes, president of the Bolivian Confederation of Private Businessmen, said that the 5 months that remain until the elections seem an eternity, considering Bolivia's situation of rapid economic deterioration. The economic crisis is so great, Illanes said, that the moment may come, in 5 to 20 days, when the banks will be paralyzed by their physical incapacity to store the enormous monetary supply. Bank vaults are full of worthless bank notes, therefore the situation is unsustainable due to an economic chaos that is very difficult to overcome.

COB DECLARES LABOR IN STATE OF EMERGENCY

PY251424 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has decreed a national state of emergency among all labor sectors, COB Secretary General Walter Delgadillo told Panamericana last night. He said that the measure was adopted in the face of the deep and worsening labor problems. He added that an urgent general COB meeting will be held at 0900 today to discuss the following issues: price increases of staples and labor conflicts, such as that of the factory workers.

EXILED OFFICERS DENY THEIR ARREST IN SPAIN

PY260225 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Albacete (Spain), 25 Jan (EFE) -- Three Bolivian officers who are in exile in the Spanish Province of Albacete after the aborted coup against President Siles Zuazo on 30 June 1984 have said that they are not being prosecuted either by Spanish or Bolivian courts.

In declarations to the daily LA TRIBUNA of Albacete, in the central western area of Spain, Captains Carlos Arturo Barriga Montano and Mario Rafael Vargas Barrientos, and Lieutenant Celso Campos Pinto said: We have not committed any crimes. What has been said in the press about us are lies and fairy tales.

After it was learned that Lieutenant Colonel German Linares Iturralde and Captain Pablo Roberto Vargas Aranda had returned to Bolivia, the other three officers were taken to the Civil Guard Headquarters in Albacete. After staying there for 1 day they were taken to the town of Penas de San Pedro where they enjoy the company of their neighbors.

They said: We do not want to create problems for anyone. We only want to live a normal life like any other citizen.

The expressed their displeasure over the reports on their daily activities in the Province of Albacete. They pointed out that they were jogging when the press reported they were carrying out combat training with weapons.

The officers declined to make political comments on Bolivia or Spain. They said that they are respectful of Spanish laws and the Spanish people and ask to be let alone until they return to their country.

MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON U.S. AID IN ANTI-DRUG FIGHT

PY252330 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The U.S. Government demands that the Bolivian authorities repress drug trafficking in a more intensive and effective manner, however, so far it has not implemented effective cooperation so that the forces in charge of this task may be able to fulfill the U.S. objectives.

When Interior Ministry officials were asked what type of aid the U.S. Government has granted to fight drug trafficking, they stated that so far the cooperation received has been insignificant. They disclosed that on several occasions they have requested the U.S. Government supply infrastructure material, arms, [word indistinct], and so on, so that the organization in charge of fighting drug trafficking may carry out an effective effort, but that the requests have been in vain since the members of the Leopard group, as well as those of the Bolivian police, have gone to the western area to struggle against this illegal activity with the financial aid of the Bolivian Government itself and the donation of material by various government institutions.

FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS ON IMF NEGOTIATIONS

PY251446 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0232 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Santiago, 24 Jan (EFE) -- Finance Minister Luis Escobar Cerda today reported that the copper hike and the interest rate drop on the international financial market will give Chile more flexibility in talks with the IMF. Escobar said that the price hike and the interest reduction will produce approximately $500 million for Chile, an amount that will be largely sufficient to overcome any differences between Chile and the IMF. He added that the talks may end in January and that an agreement might be signed by the end of February. Escobar Cerda explained that a GNP growth of 4 percent in 1985 is a nonnegotiable target in the talks with the IMF. He pointed out that Chile has sought to resolve the problems that will be encountered in 1985, rather than trying to outline a policy for a longer term. The minister said that negotiations now center around public spending and the credits that the private sector will need to attain the 4-percent GNP growth target. He refused to reveal the financial needs of the private and public sectors for 1985. However, the state news agency ORBE has reported that the two sectors may need approximately $1.7 billion. ORBE added that the IMF wants credits to be kept under $1.4 billion and the fiscal deficit to drop from 4.5 to 3.6 percent.

ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS DEBTORS CLUB NOT POSSIBLE

PY141340 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Owing to the economic improvements achieved in 1984, Chile will not change the stand that it held during the Cartagena meeting, Economy Minister Modesto Collados has stated, adding that the debtor countries meetings do not preclude the holding of bilateral talks.

[Begin Collados recording] Our stance has been consistent. Since the Santo Domingo meeting, we have maintained the same stand in the sense that the holding of bilateral talks on the debt [words indistinct] later on is not incompatible with the common stand adopted by the debtors. This common stand [words indistinct] with a debtors club is compatible since the situation involving the debt of each country is different but [words indistinct] in which we should base ourselves for our bilateral relations. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

In addition, Collados stated that the representatives of the industrialized countries might be invited to the next meeting to hold talks with the debtor countries.

[Begin recording] It is planned to invite representatives from the seven largest countries, that is, the industrialized countries, to the next meeting. [end recording]

In conclusion, Collados reiterated that it is not possible to set up a debtors club as has been proposed in the past because the conditions of the debt are different for each country.

CURFEW LIFTED IN SANTIAGO, VALPARAISO AREAS

PY251727 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] As of today, the curfew will be lifted in the metropolitan area and in San Antonio Province. At the same time, night traffic restrictions have been decreed, in keeping with the terms of Decree 34 issued by the head of the emergency zone of the metropolitan region and San Antonio Province, Brigadier General Carlos Ojeda.

The decree states that as of today, Decree 28 imposing the curfew dated 6 November 1984 is abolished. Also as of today, traffic will be restricted in the metropolitan area from 0200 to 0500 daily, except for the nights of Friday to Saturday, Saturday to Sunday, Sunday to Monday, and on the eve of holidays, when restrictions will be in force from 0300 to 0500. Neither taxis nor private or public buses will be allowed to circulate during these hours.

The safe-conducts granted under the curfew will be valid for 8 days starting today. The validity of the safe-conducts may be extended in the usual places.

The head of the emergency zone of the Valparaiso and Eastern Island Provinces has also lifted the curfew and imposed traffic restrictions.

Acting Minister Comments

PY252240 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Acting Minister Secretary General of Government Colonel Carlos Krumm said that the lifting of the curfew in no way means that the government is going to suspend security measures which safeguard the citizenry. Krumm explained that the decision to lift the curfew was taken in compliance with express instructions given by the president of the Republic who is interested in improving the citizenry's living conditions.

[Begin Krumm recording -- broadcast in progress] ...Mainly because as time has gone by we have seen that the citizenry has perfectly understood the government's reasons for implementing the curfew. Since the people have understood this measures, since the security forces have managed to evidently surpress terrorism, and since we are living in a peaceful atmosphere, the president of the Republic, who is constantly thinking of new measures that will bring more peace and better living conditions to the entire citizenry, has deemed it appropriate to replace the curfew with night traffic restriction. It should be understood that this in no way means that the government is going to suspend all security measures aimed at safeguarding the citizenry from those small groups that sometimes, with no explanation at all, try to disturb Chilean peace and order. [end recording]

Col Krumm then pointed out that the lifting of the curfew above all will benefit night workers and pointed out that this is one of the sectors President Pinochet had in mind when he made this decision.

AD SCORES SIEGE, CONSIDERS LEADERSHIP PLAN

PY240245 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Santiago, 23 Jan (EFE) -- The opposition coalition Democratic Alliance (AD) today reiterated its most energetic protest against the enforcement of the state of siege imposed on 6 November 1984 by the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

In a brief communique, the political organization said that the banishments and exiling continue to be very serious violations of basic human rights without any protection from the law. The AD also criticized the control over the press and television in addition to the censorship on radio stations, a situation which make Chile a country without freedom of expression.

The AD stated that it holds the military government responsible for the current situation, indicating that the problems have not been resolved and that this situation only leads to the extreme polarization of the country.

In reference to the democratic achievements made in Uruguay and Brazil, the AD pointed out that the government has rejected any proposals for a government of transition as has been requested by the majority.

The AD is now being run by its executive committee after the presidential term of Socialist Ricardo Lagos concluded on 31 December 1984. The Ad leaders are currently searching for new formulas to the leadership question, thus rejecting the rotating of the presidency every 2 months by representatives of the political parties. The executive committee is made up of Gabriel Valdes of the Christian Democratic Party; Ricardo Lagos of the Socialist Party; Armando Jaramillo of the Republican Right; Enrique Silva Cimma of the Radical Party; Mario Sharpe of the Social Democratic Party; Gaston Ureta of the Liberal Movement; Ramon Silva of the Popular Socialist Union; and Jorge Molina of the Socialist Convergence. The plan is that starting next March a committee of three or four people will be created to exercise a collective presidency.

Lagos told EFE that once the summer season is over, and the leaders return to the capital, the AD will in March renew its activities by concentrating on the constitutional pact and popular mobilizations. The constitutional pact, an idea proposed by the AD both to leftist and rightist groups, will be evaluated in an effort to persuade some of these organizations to join the movement. Lagos pointed out that the popular mobilization will have to be reconsidred because of the situation created in Chile by the state of siege and by the people's loss of interest in formulas.

CARABINEROS ARREST STUDENT SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

PY260155 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpt] [Broadcast in progress] ...Shortly after noon today dislodged some 100 students who were carrying out summer volunteer work in two towns near Melipilla. This information was disclosed to this station by Jaime Andrade, in charge of the summer work program of the Student Federation of Chile. The students, who were divided into two teams, have been in Codigua and San Rafael since last weekend. Andrade tells us what happened today.

[Begin recording] They arrived in Codigua and San Rafael, where the secondary students of the COEM [expansion unknown] were carrying out volunteer work, in two private buses and four Carabinero vans and proceeded to arrest the volunteer workers and put them into these buses. Moreover, they arrested three union leaders of the Melipilla area. The buses transporting the volunteer workers were escorted to Santiago by Carabineros and the 90 workers were then released at the (Torbus) bus station in Santiago. Right now the volunteer workers are free. [end recording]

Andrade added that, as is logical, the volunteer work carried out by these secondary students of the metropolitan area has been suspended indefinitely.

BORDERS CLOSED ON EVE OF POPE'S ARRIVAL

PA260141 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1813 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Quito, 25 Jan (DPA) -- At 0000 local time today, Ecuador closed its borders with Colombia and Peru "because of security reasons," on the eve of the arrival of Pope John Paul II. The Foreign Ministry announced that the closing will be in effect until 0000 local time on 2 February.

The prohibition to enter Ecuadoran territory excludes persons or groups "whose entry to the country has been officially announced by the Colombian and Peruvian Embassies in Quito or the Episcopal Conference."

In the past few days, thousands of people from southern Colombia and northern Peru entered Ecuador in an effort to see the pope during the events to be held in four cities.

The pope will visit Ecuador from 29 January to 1 February.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TOPICS FOR OPEC MEETING

PA251450 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Eduardo Santos Alvite, under secretary for natural resources, left for Vienna and Geneva yesterday to participate in the OPEC experts meeting. The state official said that the Ecuadoran proposal is to maintain the current crude price and production quotas. He added that this meeting will analyze the problem of differentials which alter the price structure.

[Begin Santos Alvite recording] The light crude market continues to be weak while heavy crudes are sold above their premium price. This distortion is causing problems in the market and must be regularized. We believe that this regularization must be conducted without affecting the benchmark price of crude.

If the price of light crude falls, the psychological impact will be very strong, because this price is the symbol of how OPEC has been able to maintain, through very difficult struggles, its price structure. The benchmark crude price should be maintained, and the prices of extra-light and heavy crudes should be adjusted.

The current difference between the prices of light and heavy crudes is, theoretically, approximately $3. However, the market shows that the difference should not be more than $1.25. [end recording]

STROESSNER DISCUSSES HEALTH, U.S., SUCCESSION

PA251710 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 25 Jan 85

[By AFP special correspondent Juan Araya]

[Text] Asuncion, 25 Jan (AFP) -- A "democracy devoid of communism," as the fruit of the "responsibility that we assumed before history" is the thought in the minds of the men that rule Paraguay, President Alfredo Stroessner stated in an exclusive interview granted to AFP today. Stroessner, who in early 1983 began his seventh consecutive term as head of state of this Mediterranean-like country in South America, also said the people in his country are the best witnesses to his "satisfactory mental and physical state."

He described as "amorphous and totally lacking in popular support" the opposition coalition National Accord, made up of four parties of which only one, the revolutionary Febrerist, is recognized by the Electoral Board.

The 72-year-old president and Army commander in chief flatly denied the rumors in diplomatic circles regarding an illness that is reportedly affecting his circulatory system and that his trip to the FRG in July of this year is related to scheduled medical treatment. "I am greatly surprised at these speculations. Thank God, who continues to give me strength and lucidity, I can continue to offer my fatherland my best efforts. I am permanently where the people need me, with the peasants, the students, the workers, the intellectuals, the men and children, to offer them my support in all of their healthy initiatives," he stated.

Having reached power through elections after heading a coup d'etat against then President Federico Chavez, Stroessner disclaimed any knowledge of a statement made by President Ronald Reagan on 15 December 1984 that Washington would promote a democratic change in Paraguay and Chile. "I can say that in Paraguay there is absolute democracy with the participation of parliament and of the legally constituted political parties. Of course, we consider a democracy to be without communism," the Paraguayan president explained. He stressed: "That is the fruit of the responsibility that we assumed before history and is the expression of the majority will demonstrated in free elections." Stroessner said that his government does not agree to "any type of democracy that excludes the feeling of patriotism, which is our pride as Paraguayans and the highest honor that we hold."

Asked if the comparision drawn by Reagan between the regimes of Asuncion and Santiago was correct, he limited himself to responding that "any comparison is hateful."

The Paraguayan president underlined that relations with the United States "are within the framework of reciprocal respect and the self-determination of our peoples."

Regarding the pressures of the U.S. Government on Paraguay to destroy an important cargo of chemical products that can potentially produce 8 tons of cocaine, Stroessner replied that "the question will be settled by the regular courts." He stressed that his government will assume the attitude that "is most in accordance with the interests of our people, abiding by and within the law" after the judiciary power, which "is totally independent," makes the decisions warranted.

Alluding to reports in Ascuncion about his presidential succession, considering that when his term ends he will be 76, Stroessner said that he does not have enough time to think about the matter because "we exhaust our energies in work and progress."

"The people are the ones who decide and they will decide, when the time comes, exercising their legitimate democratic rights proclaimed by the Constitution and the laws," he said.

Asked by AFP if there is any possibility of acceding to any of the proposals made by the opposition coalition National Accord, whose principal leaders are exiled, he responded: That political front is an amorphous group and totally lacking popular support.

"We are a government born of democratic action and we do not obey factions of doubtful ideologies or civic forces embroiled in struggles of personal ambitions, or small socially resentful groups...," he stated. He added that these groups, "in order to gain strength and stature, need a united policy in collusion with other minority associations or factions that have deviated from the traditional current of the Paraguayan spirit." The head of state emphasized that his government does not admit "those who, without popular representation, only seek personal renown or other selfish ends and are totally divorced from democracy, despising the idiosyncrasy of our peoples."

Asked if the new democratic winds blowing through Latin America can isolate governments such as his and Pinochet's in Chile, he replied: "I do not know what the 'winds of democracy' are that you mention. Here we breathe the healthy Paraguayan wind that is deeply democratic. We are respectful of the domestic affairs of other countries and for our peoples we only require and demand exclusive Paraguayan solutions."

Regarding the problem of contraband in Paraguay, which according to the local Catholic Church "strangely and suspiciously enough appears to be insurmountable," Storessner said that "there are opinions that emerge from interested sectors." He stressed that the violations of the customs laws "are not exclusive to Paraguay" and in all the countries of the world "one encounters this problem."

"My government, through its respective organizations, adopted and will continue to adopt the legal measures that are warranted, and whoever violates the law is and will be penalized without privileges...," he added.

Referring to the economic situation, he noted that Paraguay has the "lowest rate of unemployment on our continent, as it is only a little over 8 percent, and we are regarded as good creditors in international financial circles." He added that his country's economy "is in a state of good balance" and his government applies "the normally respective measures to benefit the people in keeping with the necessities of each moment." Finally, Stroessner said that "there is no deterioration whatsoever" in Paraguay's economy, and therefore, "I see no need to modify our programs." He stressed that if it were to become necessary, "we are sufficiently balanced to adopt the measures most recommended; however, to ease your concern, I will tell you that we will not reach such extremes."

MOPOCO LEADERS ARRESTED, WARNED, RELEASED

PY252127 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 16

[Text] Three members of the Colorado Popular Movement [Mopoco] were taken yesterday to the Central Police Headquarters on charges of violating a police resolution whereby they are only allowed to go from their residences to their places of work and return. These leaders were arrested in a downtown cafe. The arrested leaders were Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, Antonio Gonzalez Prieto, and Sandino Gil Oporto. At police headquarters they were warned that they are not to violate the above-mentioned police resolution and were then released. On giving his account of the case, Gonzalez Casabianca noted that it was "another instance of the harassment to which we have been subjected since we returned to the country."

REACTION TO AMNESTY INTERNATONAL REPORT CONTINUES

Government Issues Communique

PY241250 Lima Cadena Panamaericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Regarding the Amnesty International report, the Peruvian Government has issued the following communique:

1. Peru promotes and upholds full respect for human rights as a state policy, in keeping with the will of the Peruvian people who are genuinely represented by the present government. This is also in keeping with the Peruvian Constitution and with international treaties signed in this regard.

2. In recognition of this policy, the international community has chosen Peru as a member of the Human Rights Commission, the top UN organization in charge of safeguarding the enforcement of human rights in all nations, for the 1985-87 period. In keeping with this honor, Peru will be represented at the next meeting of the Human Rights Commission, which is scheduled for 4 February in Geneva.

3. In view of recent charges raised by some institutions and members of the media about human rights violations in Peru, under its own initiative and in keeping with its own sovereign decision, the Peruvian Government has decided to invite the Human Rights Commission task group on missing persons to visit Peru and to carry out a serious investigation so that it may prove that recent, slanderous charges in this regard are incorrect.

4. The government once again reasserts the enforcement of complete freedom of the press, the normal development of the present electoral process, the irrevocable enforcement of the Constitution, and the upholding of human rights.

5. The public must distinguish between the arbitrary repression that is repudiated by the government, and the government's legal right to control terrorist actions by the self-styled Shining Path group, which top-ranking international human right authorities have described as a dogmatic and fanatic organization which practices terrorism and which has unleashed violent actions, massacring entire peasant communities. In instances where excesses have been committed in exercising this legal right, the government has placed the cases at the disposal of the Interior Ministry to carry out the proper investigation. If these excesses have been properly proven and those involved identified, the government has placed the case at the disposal of the proper courts.

6. The government wishes to reassert its commitment to continue to fully uphold human rights, and it urges all Peruvians who have erred to abandon terrorist practices and to dedicate themselves to achieving the unity of the nation, which is the duty of all Peruvians in order to insure our economic development and to strengthen Peruvian democratic institutions.

Lima, 23 January 1985, Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Percovich on Allegations

PY241338 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] After releasing the government communique in reaction to the Amnesty International report on human rights violations in Peru, Minister Percovich, president of the Council of Ministers, said that some people believe that the objective of the Amnesty International report is to discredit the pope's visit to Peru.

[Begin recording] [Percovich] Some of the allegations in the Amnesty International report are very surprising, because those responsible for the excesses that took place have been put at the disposal of the authorities.

[Reporter] What will actually be done about this report?

[Percovich] First, we have issued an official communique. We now have to verify whether the allegations are true through the Interior Ministry and other public administration departments. As soon as we draw up the final report, it will be released to the public, as we have done before.

[Reporter] How long will the government take?

[Percovich] It is such a long list that it is difficult to set a date, but we will report it at the proper time, as soon as we gather all the information.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how has the government received this report from Amnesty International?

[Percovich] We knew beforehand that Amnesty International would issue a report of this kind. They have issued it with the self-assurance of someone who irresponsibly makes accusations which, we believe, are hasty. Therefore, we have been forced to issue a communique that does not refer to Amnesty International directly, but to published reports in general on the subject. As I have just stated, we will verify the document's veracity and will give our reply to it at the proper time.

[Reporter] Does this group have a certain political orientation?

[Percovich] It must have some political orientation, although we cannot tell exactly what kind. All social organizations are politically oriented in some way.

[Reporter] Do you think that this is part of a campaign to discredit the pope's visit?

[Percovich] We do not want to make hasty conclusions, but there are some who believe this is so. However, at the moment this is not the official opinion of the government. We still do not have enough information to confirm this opinion, but the date of the Amnesty International report leads us to believe what we do.

Organization Criticized

PY261800 Lima OAY-4Z Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca today harshly criticized Amnesty International, which recently issued a gloomy report on the status of human rights in Peru. Percovich charged Amnesty International with manipulating its reports, acting hastily, and clearly seeking political designs.

[Begin recording] First, the report has not been officially handed over to the government. We read about it through the foreign press first, and then through the local press. Therefore, those who are claiming that this report was handed over to the Peruvian Government first are not telling the truth.

I believe that this type of report, released by an international organization, should be delivered to the Foreign Ministry. However, in my capacity as foreign minister I have not received any information about the official delivery of this report. I repeat that we have learned about it through our overseas embassies, namely through those in London and Washington.

As far as Amnesty International's use of opinions issued by the Catholic Church is concerned, I can say that we are not surprised, since international organizations linked to the extreme left have typically used statements released by the Catholic Church to support their allegations, although in a distorted rather than straightforward fashion.

We can see how in this country the homilies and statements issued by the Catholic Church about the basic needs of the Peruvian people have often been used by extreme-left organizations to support their political allegations. Yet we are well aware that Marxism and the church do not go hand, but that they walk entirely different paths. [end recording]

Commission Member on Report

PY261650 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0230 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Pablo Rojas, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, has said that according to an Amensty International report there are 1,000 persons reported as missing in the Ayacucho emergency zone.

In a press conference attended by Huamanga Mayor Leonor Zamora and relatives of missing persons, Rojas said the Amnesty International report is not designed to undermine Peru's standing in the world.

[Begin recording] The objective is to preserve human life in our country. I believe that this Amnesty International report, like previous reports, includes information, figures, and clear-cut cases which should make the Peruvian Government and Armed Forces drastically change the policy they have been enforcing in Ayacucho, which we regard as a dirty-war policy [referring to so-called "dirty war" waged by Argentine Armed Forces against subversion]. [end recording]

POPE JOHN PAUL II BEGINS TOUR IN CARACAS

Arrives 26 January

PA262118 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2004 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Caracas, 26 Jan (EFE) -- Pope John Paul II arrived in Venezuela this afternoon for his first visit to this oil-producing country in northern Latin America, on the shores of the Caribbean Sea. The DC-10 aircraft, called Luigi Pirandello and on a special flight from Rome, escorted by four F-16 jet aircraft of the Venezuela Air Force, landed on schedule at 1600 (2000 GMT) at the Simon Bolivar International Airport, 25 km for Caracas. Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and his wife, high-level civilian and church authorities, and a group of children carrying pontifical flags and singing Beethoven's "Song of Joy," welcomed the pope at the airport.

Welcomed by Lusinchi

PA262206 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2014 GMT 26 Jan 85

[President Jaime Lusinchi's welcoming address to Pope John Paul II, at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpt] Your Holiness Pope John Paul II:

For all Venezuelans this is a historic, truly unique moment; it is also the fulfillment of an old yearning: to have the head of the Catholic Church visit us, to have the person who represents that great spiritual force on earth in our land.

Once again, Your Holiness has arrived in Latin America during a time of crisis and serious unrest, which threatens peace in certain part of the region. We welcome your visit with joy and hope, as it implies a raising of consciousness and an opportunity to ponder these issues. It symbolizes a new appeal for our countries to settle our differences through dialogue and understanding and for us to devote our energies and work to eradicate economic and social ills such as poverty and hopelessness, which particularly affect countless human beings in this area.

Speaks at Airport

PA262214 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2025 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Speech by Pope John Paul II upon his arrival at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr President, dear brothers of the Episcopate, authorities, dear brothers and sisters:

I have come to the land of Simon Bolivar, whose desire it was to build in this continent a great nation [words indistinct]. The purpose of my visit is very specific, namely to try to consolidate the first evangelical effort that was carried out on the Cumana beaches. This effort soon crystallized in the first diocese, that of Coro, which was later declared a pontifical city by one of my predecessors. According to him, the diocese should be a spiritual seminary for all his followers.

This trip is linked with the objectives I outlined during my recent visit to the Dominican Republic. This visit is part of the preparation for the commemoration of the fifth centennial of evangelization in America, to which I want to make a personal contribution.

I am particularly pleased that the purpose of my visit has been noted in advance, in the great national mission, by the faith of numerous church agents who have sought not only to renew faith but to renew the country through the conversion of the heart. In this important moment of Latin American and Venezuelan history, I want to foster with my presence these objectives of renovation toward new goals of recovery of family integrity in terms of greater social justice and in search of new initiatives in the fields of education, labor, and civic coexistence.

We cannot, however, forget that the first goal is man's greater inner enrichment, so that with faith in his spirit and an enlightened awareness of his temporary and eternal nature, man can adopt, before God and human realities, a serene stance that goes far beyond mere materialism.

Appeals for Social Justice

PA270356 Paris AFP in English 0350 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Caracas, Jan 27 (AFP) -- Pope John Paul 2nd appealed for social justice, but issued a warning to Marxist priests after he landed in Venezuela Saturday at the start of an 11-day tour that will take him to Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad-Tobago. An estimated million people were in the streets here to see him in this capital, where the "ranchitos" (shanty towns) on the outskirts contrast with the sky-scrapers and luxury shops.

In a rebuke to petroleum-rich Venezuela, he told its 30 bishops and archbishops at the papal nuncio's residence: "Your country has abundant riches, which does not prevent broad social strata from being subjected to poverty, even to extreme poverty. This precarious situation of so many Venezuelans reveals bad distribution of resources."

Priests should seek "in all possible ways" to "uplift the needy morally and materially. Preach tirelessly the social demands of Christianity...and foster all forms of approach and aid to the most needy..."

But the pontiff warned in an allusion to the leftist "theology of liberation": "Unfortunately, there is no lack today of those who, abusing the church's teaching mission, announce not Christ's truth, but their own theory." Nor was there a shortage of priests who "deform the message of the scriptures by putting it at the service of ideologies and political strategies seeking an illusory liberation on earth."

The Central American conflict was discussed in an initial private talk in the Presidential Palace between the pope and President Jaime Lusinchi, church sources disclosed.

The pope urged the bishopes to act "prudently and firmly at the same time" to defend the institution of the family. About 90 per cent of Venezuelans are Roman Catholics, but only five per cent are regular church-goers.

On Sunday, the pope was scheduled to meet with Polish settlers and officiate at open air masses here and at Maracaibo, the oil capital.

IRAN'S MUSAVI, LEADERS DISCUSS OPEC, RELATIONS

PA260209 Paris AFP in Spanish 0143 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Caracas, 25 Jan (AFP) -- During a brief stopover in the Venezuelan capital today, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi defended his country's right to maintain active solidarity with Nicaragua.

Musavi remained here for 3 hours on Friday night, en route to Tehran after a 3-day official visit in Nicaragua.

The Iranian leader was welcomed at the airport by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul, Interior Minister Manuel Perez Guerrero, and Deputy Energy Minister Hernan Anzola. They reviewed the Central American situation, the Middle East situation, bilateral relations, and the role of Iran and Venezuela in OPEC. It was recalled that the two countries are OPEC members, which will meet this weekend in Geneva to examine the market, which is currently at odds with the organization, and the current price structure.

Upon concluding the meeting, Musavi told the news media of "his happiness, because Venezuela's position in OPEC is similar to ours." Musavi explained that Iran hopes the OPEC meeting will find formulas to control the market that are accepted and respected by the 13 member countries.

Musavi reiterated his rejection of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent accusations that Musavi's visit to Managua was part of a plan to export the Iranian revolution to Nicaragua.

"These statements are aimed at creating an adverse atmosphere around us. We made the trip to Nicaragua because Vice President Sergio Ramirez invited us after he visited Iran last year. It was a reciprocal act. It is natural that our revolutionary country has a position similar to that of Nicaragua," Musavi asserted.

When special emphasis was placed on President Reagan's accusations, Musavi replied: "We have witnessed another U.S. trick during the past 24 hours. We have seen international news agencies' reports which linked our name to organizations we know nothing about."

Regarding increased oil cooperation with Nicaragua, the Iranian leader said: "We sell oil to many countries, including Nicaragua, but we did not discuss this topic during my visit."

The rumor about a $30-million donation to the Sandinist regime was "categorically denied."

Regarding the Persian Gulf war, Musavi reasserted: "Iraq is the one waging a war against us. We have only defended ourselves. We have just demands, and we will continue with our demands until they are fulfilled."

Lastly, he defended the need for "oppressed people to become aware of facts so that they do not continue to be exploited. Oppressed peoples should mistrust international news agencies."

PRD STATEMENT SUPPORTS JOINT EXERCISES WITH U.S.

PA261707 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 3 A

[Statement issued by Jorge Abadia Arias, secretary general of the Revolutionary Democratic Party, PRD, in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Mindful of its responsibilities to Panamanian society, the PRD considers it its duty to issue a statement regarding the joint military exercises scheduled for the Azuero Peninsula. Commitments made in the Panama Canal treaties stipulate that U.S. Army troops are to remain in our national territory until the last day of this century for the exclusive purpose of protecting the Panama Canal. Moreover, the defense of the canal calls for the increasing joint participation of our Defense Forces of the Republic [FDN] which will increase their capabilities so that they can completely and definitely replace foreign troops on the appointed date. Throughout the current period, it will become necessary to promote the FDN's development to ensure the total recapture of Panamanian sovereignty, as Omar [General Omar Torrijos Herrera] outlined. To fail to do so would be to justify extending the foreign troops' presence.

On another issue, the national government and the FDN have guaranteed that the exercises are exclusively desgined to provide defense training. At no time do the exercises convey bullying or threatening overtones against our sovereignty or against the right to self-determination of other brother nations; nor shall we allow them to.

To comply with and faithfully enforce compliance with the spirit and letter of the treaties is the right decision. Since we are in compliance with the treaties, we have a greater moral right to demand that the treaties be observed. For this reason, while we accept the joint exercises, we renew our demand that Law 96-70 be amended so that it becomes more in line with Panamanian interests in the treaties' implementation. We also demand that the national government reaffirm, together with the execution of the Azuero exercises, the Torrijist foreign policy principles of independence, neutrality, nonalignment, relations with all the world's peoples, and tirelessly defending our brother nations' peace, integrity, and sovereignty.

With all of the above, we reiterate our trust in the FDN's profound patriotism, as this group genuinely represents our people, and in its permanent commitment to combat backwardness, social injustices, and dependency, because the FDN is the faithful keeper of our national sovereignty and dignity.

[Signed] Jorge Abadia Arias, PRD secretary general

COCINA URGES SUSPENSION OF U.S. AID TO MILITARY

PA271841 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 4 A

["Open Letter" to U.S. Ambassador Everett E. Briggs from the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, Cocina, issued in Panama City on 22 January]

[Text] His Excellency Everett E. Briggs, U.S. Ambassador in Panama, Panama City:

Mr Ambassador: It has been customary for nationalist and leftist sectors to stage demonstrations in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest U.S. policy in Panama.

However, on 17 January, it was conservative and rightist sectors of Panamanian society that peacefully picketed the U.S. Embassy to protest the economic aid that your government provides to the military hierarchy and the staging of joint maneuvers on our territory. This is a clear indication of the discontent pervading the entire spectrum of Panamanian ideological thinking because of your government's overt and covert cooperation with the military hierarchy, which is directly responsible for the corruption currently afflicting our country, a corruption that has caused an acute and dangerous social crisis in Panama. For this reason, with the respect that has been a Cocina characteristic, we hold your government responsible for the gravity of the present Panamanian situation, because of its complicity with the local agents of corruption. For the sake of peace, justice, democracy, and liberty, we demand the immediate suspension of the economic aid, political guidance, and moral support extended to the military hierarchy.

We Panamanians will achieve democracy, the only viable and possible option in our fatherland, in our own way. Cocina, the authorized spokesman of the Panamanian people, is concerned about the fact that you, the defenders of democracy, are supporting militarism and corruption in our country.

Cocina Board of Directors

[Signed] Mauro Zuniga, secretary general of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute; Nesto Mendez V., president, Association of Professors; Ada de Gordon, coordinator, Independent Teachers; Rogelio Douglas, president, Association of Private School Educators; Maria V. de Arias, president, National Medical Association; Carlos Herrera, student group

Copies: All embassies accredited in Panama; local and foreign media

ALASEI NEWS AGENCY OPENS BRANCH OFFICE

PA270156 Panama City THE STAR AND HERALD in English 26 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The Latin American Agency for Special Information Services (Agencia Latinoamericana de Servicios Especiales de Informacion -- ALASEI) this week installed a branch in Panama, in a special ceremony attended by Second Vice President Roderick Esquivel, members of the diplomatic corps and accredited foreign correspondents. Named to head the agency was newswoman Norma Nunez Montoto, a former president of the Panama Newsmen's Union.

Jose Sobrino, regional director of the United Nation's Information Center and Dr Eduardo Stein of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), emphasized the importance of the new information agency for the "integration and reaffirmation of the sovereignty of Latin American countries," Panama's contribution to agency, and gave public recognition to Miss Montoto's professional merits.

ALASEI will establish its own network of telecommunications that will link branches to be gradually established in all the capitals of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other nations in the Third World and the industrialized North.

At this point, offices have been established in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela, Sobrino disclosed.

CONTADORA URGES COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA COOPERATION

PA270411 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose -- The Contadora Group has asked for the cooperation of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan foreign ministers to resolve the issue between the two countries regarding the case of the Nicaraguan asylum seeker who tried to evade military service and later left the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua to pursue a romantic affair.

In a message addressed to Carlos Jose Gutierrez and Miguel D'Escoto, Costa Rican and Nicaraguan foreign ministers respectively, the Contadora foreign ministers reiterated their willingness to cooperate in the search for a friendly solution to the problem that has introduced outside elements into relations between the two governments.

The Contadora message added that it is important to make efforts for a prompt resolution of the problem and to save an institution that has been honored and developed in international law in America.

After pointing out the worrisome reactions that this situation has generated in the region and abroad, the Contadora Group urged Costa Rica and Nicaragua to consider the need to maintain trust and cordiality among Central American states. Toward this end, the four Contadora governments reiterated their immediate willingness to help.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL, LINDO RETURN FROM VISIT TO HOUSTON

FL261546 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister and minister of finance, Mr Manuel Esquivel, and the minister of natural resources, Mr Dean Lindo, are back in Belize after a visit to Houston, Texas. The prime minister and minister of natural resources were guests of the Houston Chamber of Commerce and were hosted by Mr Walt Mischer of the Allied Bank of Houston and Mr Paul Howell of Howell Industries and Oil Corporation.

During their overnight visit to Houston, the two ministers met with the mayor of that city and were special guests at the Houston outlook conference, which had as its special speaker Senator Howard Baker.

Mr Esquivel and Mr Lindo met for discussions with potential investors in Belize as well as [with] Mr Keith Johnson, who has recently pumped some $5 million into a shrimp farm in Belize and has launched an investment bank to assist local businessmen.

COSTA RICA

CONTADORA DEPUTY MINISTERS MEETING REQUESTED

PA271718 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Costa Rica has asked the Contadora Group to hold a meeting of deputy foreign ministers. This request was formalized by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Costa Rica is willing to attend any meeting that attempts to straighten out the incident with Nicaragua that occurred on 24 December concerning Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. According to reports, Costa Rica is urging the Contadora Group to hold a meeting of deputy foreign ministers to specifically discuss the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO GRANT ASYLUM TO CUBAN

PA260302 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Government Ministry's immigration department has announced that the executive branch has refused asylum to a Cuban citizen who deserted while working in Nicaragua. (Jesus Cosme Macias Marquez) was sent to Nicaragua as an instructor by the government of Fidel Castro Ruz. He managed to get to San Carlos in the northern part of the country, where he requested political asylum. (Macias Marquez) was refused asylum, but his lawyer has presented an appeal while (Macias) is being held pending the final decision on his fate. Immigration officials said that some deputies from the National Liberation Party will intercede on (Macias Marquez') behalf before the executive branch, and that if he is not granted political asylum he should at least be given the opportunity to seek it in another country.

EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE U.S.-NICARAGUAN AGREEMENT

PA251855 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Jan 85 p 10

[Editorial: "Curtin Winsor's Statements"]

[Text] The statements by the U.S. ambassador in San Jose, Dr Curtin Winsor, published in a magnificent interview in LA NACION last Friday, strengthen the view that the consolidation of communism in Nicaragua is being negotiated in Manzanillo in exchange for certain guarantees to the United States.

A possible pact between the United States and a Marxist regime is nothing new in the U.S. diplomatic strategy. It is not even condemnable from the standpoint of the United States which understandably puts number one first. We have seen similar agreements in Angola, Cuba, Vietnam, and other nations. However, the matter is grave for us who are part of the game but cannot participate in it except as propitiatory victims. We should not allow this to go unnoticed, especially since we know that one of the contracting parties does not usually keep the terms of agreements.

The Manzanillo negotiations have remained secret, so we can only argue on the basis of what we can perceive and try to discover the causes through the consequences this implies. Winsor's statements bolster the idea that the United States will accept the communist system in Nicaragua in exchange for certain promises: that the mangy dogs limit their actions to within their own borders; that they stop aiding the communist guerrillas in El Salvador by refusing to serve as the bridge so Cuba can send them weapons; that they do not establish bases from where a Soviet attack might be launched against the United States, and so on. As part of the agreement, the United States will dismantle the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), which it created and has supported; it will eliminate all aid to Commander Pastora and keep him from receiving aid from any other source; and it will prevent any economic boycott against the communist regime in Managua.

That is between them. However, what will we do because we know that the communists will not keep their part of the agreement? That the reds will not keep their side of the agreement is not untrue. In order to put an end to the crisis of the 1970's between the United States and Cuba, the two nations signed a similar agreement. Shortly afterwards, however, the Americans discovered that the Cubans were secretly building a base for nuclear submarines, Soviet submarines of course, in Cienfuegos.

For Central America, Mexico, and even the United States itself, a communist government in El Salvador is just as dangerous and expansionistic as one in Nicaragua. For us, it is closer in Nicaragua than in El Salvador.

We cannot close our eyes to the reality that while nonexpansionism and respect for the sovereignty of others is being negotiated in Manzanillo, the Marxist regime in Managua enters our embassy, removes a refugee, and dispatches troops to the area of Laguna de Aguadulce. Neither can we forget that Nicaraguan Government officials participated in the terrorist acts of planting a bomb in the Honduran Airlines Inc. offices as well as the one that exploded in the parking lot in front of the Central Park, or close our eyes to the massacre of Miskitos that is being perpetrated this very moment in Nicaragua's Atlantic area.

The bottom line is that all of this is being negotiated in Manzanillo: our security, the stability of our democratic system, the lives of thousands of human beings in the Miskito regions, and the freedom of our Nicaraguan brothers. We must think about all of this very seriously.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE SAYS PROBLEMS MAY LEAD TO DESTABILIZATION

PA251315 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0647 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Report by Robert Block]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 25 Jan (REUTER) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte said that political problems of both right- and left-wing groups could destabilize his government and unleash widespread violence.

His statements at a press conference last night coincided with those issued by officials in Washington.

They said that Duarte's capacity to govern is being threatened by the powerful right-wing sector and by leftist guerrillas who have been fighting for the past 5 years to topple the U.S.-supported government.

"I have problems with the extreme left and I have problems with the democratic right... if things get any worse the democratic process could be destabilized and this could lead to absurd actions," Duarte said.

Duarte has attributed the recent wave of political murders, mostly of National Republican Alliance [ARENA] officials, to guerrillas of the FMLN, the umbrella organization under which the five insurgent armies fighting his government operate.

However, [ARENA leader] D'Aubuisson told the LA PRENSA GRAFICA daily that the murders have been committed by "death squads."

Duarte refuted that contention and accused D' Aubuisson, whose name has also been linked to the death squads, of trying to polarize the country and destabilize his government.

Duarte said that he has not yet decided if a third round of talks will take place with the rebels, claiming that his hesitation is in response to the insurgents' attitude toward the talks in which they only seek to obtain tactical advantages from the negotiations and not to sincerely seek an end to the conflict.

On D'Aubuisson, Pope

PA251553 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Jan 85

["Excerpt" of a press conference held by President Jose Napoleon Duarte on 24 January; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Mr President, I now invite Mr (Luis Alvaran) of the SERVICIOS DE PRENSA UNIDA agency.

[(Alvaran)] Mr President, I have two questions. One of them has already been answered in part in your response to (Raquel Becquer). However, Major D'Aubuisson has specifically referred to some green squads, which allegedly killed the ARENA people. I would like to know whether your government has any evidence on the existence of these squads, which have already been mentioned in the past in this country?

My other question deals with international events. The Central American conflict seems to have elicited the direct interest of new nations, such as Germany and the Vatican. Specifically, I would like to know if the pope might mediate in the Salvadoran conflict or if you think that he would rather devote himself to the regional conflict in general?

[Duarte] In the first place, I believe all of you are aware of the arrogant and insolent way in which Mr D'Aubuisson acts. What he is trying to say is that there are green Christian Democratic squads. That is what he is saying. Why? Because he knows what he has done to this country by creating destabilization and sponsoring the entire process of violence he has generated since 1980. However, the Salvadoran people and the entire world know that we have fought in this country, yet we have never picked up a weapon to harm anyone. We have fought with the weapon of democracy. We have confronted the hardest and most terrible dictatorship which could not subjugate us. I have personally suffered a number of humiliations, but I have never acted vengefully or resorted to violence. As further evidence of (?this), we do not even use our legitimate rights. For instance, Mr D'Aubuisson acted disrespectfully toward me on television and in the newspapers even after I became president of the Republic. That is enough in any country to apply the country's laws on the person doing this. However, we have not even done that.

As for the second question, the pope's message was in general. He discussed the Central American conflict and offered his good offices in an effort to find some understanding among the various nations. I think that the pope was also conveying a message with regard to the national conflict and the search for a solution to El Salvador's problems. The message he was conveying is the support of the Catholic Church and of the pope himself for the Salvadoran church's position, the position of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference, and the position of the archbishop of San Salvador who has served as an instrument of peace throughout the years.

ARENA'S D'AUBUISSON CRITICZES PDC 'SLANDERS'

PA261826 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Jan 85 pp 3, 47

[Text] It is easy to slander to cover up sins. We have always been insulted, but no one will stop our struggle against communism even if they kill fellow party members. This was stated by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, yesterday. They are currently trying to politically terrorize our rank and file throughout the country but they will not stop our struggle to defend the country from the clutches of communitarianism or communism with terror, because we will show them that the valuable weapon of votes is the biggest support that the Salvadoran people have given the ARENA members, D'Aubuisson said.

The members of ARENA have endured the slanders that our ideological opponents, the "Christian Democratic Party [PDC] fish," have orchestrated at the national and international levels, the ARENA leader said, adding: The Salvadoran people are aware of our principles and the PDC lies are slowly being uncovered. This is why they fear the National Conciliation Party, ARENA, and Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party coalition. That is why they call us "ultrarightists or extreme rightists." They want the people to believe that we have the same principles as the ultraleftists or extreme leftists, but those in the PDC forget that the Salvadoran people have suffered the attacks of the communists and that our struggle is different from that of the Russians, Cubans, Nicaraguans, etc. "We want to show through the democratic and civilized path of votes that the Salvadorans reject all disguises of communism," D'Aubuisson said.

From now on, he added, they will emerge with tears in their eyes trying to confuse the people by posing as "saints." He said that they even dare call themselves the soul of the people but the people know in whom to entrust their future.

D'AUBUISSON OPENS ARENA CAMPAIGN, CONDEMNS PDC

PA261455 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Speech by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson on the occasion of the opening of the ARENA political campaign; date and place not given -- broadcast in process]

[Text]...Will vigorously oppose the use of violence and all forms of terrorism, from any source because such measures are in full opposition to the establishment of a de jure state and respect for man's basic human rights. For this reason, our party, ARENA, rejects and condemns this policy of terror imposed by leftists and their political branches. The leaders of the Christian Democratic government hypocritically speak against this terrorist policy. These leaders have been increasingly weakening our nation.

Inspired by this genuine, democratic principle, as we have already shown by our former overwhelming victories, ARENA is again readying itself throughout the country to confront with votes from nationalists the international submissiveness of the PDC. The true Salvadoran people lift our party's tricolor flag with patriotic fervor. Together, we have been setting a great example of political maturity and have demonstrated that we know exactly what our people want: to achieve national unity and control the ruling PDC's arrogance through an ample majority in the Legislative Assembly.

ARENA feels that if democratic forces prevail in the legislative branch, we will more effectively counter the PDC's sad actions and their voracious appetite that has led the current government to violate the Constitution of the Republic.

One of ARENA's basic goals is to abide by the Constitution and its bylaws. As long as there are political officials in our country who aspire to wield total power and unscrupulously trample the Constitution, we in ARENA are under the obligation to definitely stop the enemies of law. The indescribable outrage committed by the PDC president in the case of the electoral law clearly shows the PDC's real identity and discloses what this party is willing to do in order to impose its totalitarian ideas without regard for the serious and irreversible damage caused to the democratic process that we true Salvadorans have been trying in the middle of the FMLN's crossfire.

Salvadoran brothers, the power outrages and the unbearable arrogance of the green [PDC's color] dictatorship make us commit ourselves in this electoral campaign with bravery and lofty demonstrations of civic awareness. Just as we have always been committed to defending the legal order imposed by law in our homeland, we are determined to watch over full respect for man's basic rights.

All Salvadorans are equal under the law and man is the basis for family and society. For this reason, the ARENA deputies who are currently in office have arduously struggled for the fulfillment of these very important objectives. Our deputies, who will be elected in March, have pledged to be worthy representatives of our people and to defend the fulfillment of the Constitution at any cost.

During ARENA's 3 years of existence and outstanding participation, the search for legal alternatives to restore peace to our suffering people has been demonstrated beyond doubt. ARENA's proposals for the achievement of this priority goal are based on the fact that FMLN subversive groups are criminals who operate illegally. They can only join political life by surrendering their arms and participating within the established constitutional framework as all legally organized parties do.

When ARENA's parliamentary faction was still in office at the Constituent Assembly, it introduced a bill on national pacification and rehabilitation for those who unsuccessfully try to seize power undemocratically and violently. For causes beyond our control, that bill was not considered and so the right moment to take steps leading to national pacification without jeopardizing our sovereignty and legal status was lost.

ARENA has said and firmly reasserts that it will never support any alleged pacification plan based on a submissive negotiation over the blood shed by the heroes who have given their lives defending our homeland while either wearing the glorious uniform of our Armed Forces or at work. We can neither hold a dialogue nor negotiate. By initiating the discredited dialogue with the FMLN terrorists, the current government has questioned the feelings of most Salvadorans and, in an effort at propaganda, has opened the door to the sworn enemies of our homeland who are the cause of our tragedy.

ARENA maintains that the only legal dialogue that most Salvadorans support -- if subversive leaders are really motivated by peaceful purposes -- is the forming of a political party by the FMLN and their acceptance of the verdict of voters during elections. We know that subversives will never do this because they represent less than 1 percent of El Salvador's population. In addtion, they fear direct condemnation by voters.

However, Duarte and his inseparable friend Ungo have continued their pacification plan in an effort to attain electoral victory through false peace in the nation. This is what the PDC and their FMLN-FDR companeros have been doing. They have created false hope for peace and deceived the people by telling them that this destructive war will come to an end if the people vote for the PDC. This is the biggest lie being told and the most loathsome crime being committed. They try to deceive people through a pacification that will end up establishing a totalitarian dictatorship, just as happened in Nicaragua.

ARENA has always maintained as one of its main objectives the need to defend and decisively support the country's productive sectors that have suffered the destructive effects of terrorists forces and internationalist demagogues of the PDC during the past 5 years. The country's Constitution, together with our parliamentary faction's ideological contribution, upheld the principle of free enterprise and respect for private property as a suitable basis for national economic organization. This definition, which is clear and sharp in our Constitution, does not allow for the establishment in our country of an economic system inspired by communist and socialist concepts.

Nevertheless, the green dictatorship's tendency toward collectivism and unbounded demagoguery has not abandoned the idea of establishing a fascist, all-encompassing, and totalitarian economic system here.

They have made several efforts to distort our Constitution's juridical guarantees for free enterprise and the right to property. ARENA deputies and representatives from other friendly, democratic factions have checked the PDC's march toward the left. This is the time to recall the tragic years of the PDC's coup government when, with their characteristic arrogance and absolute political irresponsibility, they disrupted the constitutional order and established, to the disgrace of the Salvadoran people, a number of abusive reforms that have only served to force our people deeper into hunger, desperation, and misery.

The desire for revenge of the PDC leaders, pushed by the criminal struggle of classes which they foster with their hateful preaching and with the false pretext of aiding the dispossessed majority, led them to commit a crime against the nation by completely breaking and dismantling the national economy's structural bases. The formation of these bases was the result of arduous work and many sacrifices by numerous generations of workers and businessmen. That powerful economy of continuous growth [words indistinct] is now only a sad memory in the minds of our working people, thanks to the PDC and the FMLN's terrorist dynamite.

For these reasons, our people will never forgive such an irresponsible and destructive action by those who now hold power. Every factory closed, every business that goes bankrupt, and every plantation abandoned only represents unemployment for thousands of countrymen and misery for their families. While paying a sincere homage of admiration to our country's productive sectors, that is, employees and employers, ARENA solemnly asserts that only the force of constructive, well-understood work in a system of free enterprise and justice made it possible for our country to appear as an example of progress in the region.

For this reason, nationalist deputies and mayors who will be elected by our people in March will do their utmost to support the national economic recovery through proper laws. Together with members of friendly parliamentary factions, we will revise and update all bylaws and codes that bear a direct relationship to economic activities so that both businessmen and workers harmoniously, respectfully, and fearlessly devote their efforts to strengthen the national economy and admit that only our joint efforts can achieve this.

ARMY REPORTEDLY CAPTURES NORTH KOREAN 'MERCENARY'

PA271819 San Salvador EL MUNDO 25 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Reliable sources in San Salvador reported today that the Armed Forces in northern Morazan have captured a North Korean mercenary whose identity has not been officially confirmed. The sources said that the North Korean was captured on 23 January during heavy fighting north of San Francisco Gotera, the capital of Morazan Department, along with a minor guerrilla commander who served as the mercenary's assistant.

Our sources added that the North Korean was captured by combined Armed Forces participating in the "Torola V" operation. They said that the prisoner has been transferred under heavy guard to an Armed Forces command in the area for initial interrogation.

The sources said that the mercenary told his captors that he had been with the Salvadoran guerrillas for 2 and 1/2 years and that he has participated in terrorist activities against civilian populations and in attacks on the Armed Forces in the eastern region. It was also said that the mercenary speaks Spanish well and that when he was surrounded by troops he offered heavy resistance by using martial arts. The soldiers put him out of action with "karate blows."

When efforts were made to confirm the capture of this mercenary, the military leadership in the area said they were unaware of it. Nevertheless, the capture of the North Korean is said to be true. It is said to be a hit with the Army since he is Asian.

Meanwhile, military sources report that the Army has continued "to hit hard" at the guerrillas in various areas of the eastern region and has prevented them from regrouping on both sides of the Pan-American Highway and other roads. As a result, the guerrillas have been unable to carry out their threats against vehicular traffic.

It has been reported that this morning military contingents of several units in the capital arrived in trucks and helicopters in the area of Santiago de Maria, Usulutan Department, where it was indicated that a new offensive to "clean up" the extremists around coffee plantations would begin today.

It has also been reported that at 1100 yesterday there was heavy fighting between troops of the Fonseca Battalion of the 3d Military Detachment in La Union and FMLN guerrillas on the Pan-American Highway at the turnoff to Los Mangos near Mogote Hill in Pasaquina jurisdiction, La Union Department. It was reported that the extremists tried to ambush the columns of troops walking on both sides of the highway. One soldier was wounded and a woman was killed when her pickup was caught in the line of fire.

BOMB NEAR U.S. EMBASSY CAUSES POWER OUTAGE

PA271605 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded last night in an electricity power pole near the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador causing a power outage in sectors of the capital for several hours. During January, the FMLN urban commandos have notably increased the sabotage of the regime's war economy in San Salvador. It has also been reported that three soldiers of the San Vicente military garrison were seriously wounded when a mine placed by FMLN squads on the road from San Vicente to Tecoluca exploded.

FMLN ENDS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRIKE 25 JAN

PA260420 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Attention, drivers: Attention, all our people: Radio Venceremos reports that the national transportation strike has concluded today, Friday, 25 January. We repeat, the paralyzation of the transportation activities on all the country's highways ends today, Friday, 25 January. Therefore, as of Saturday, 26 January, the highways will again be open to transportation activities. We repeat: The country's highways are again open as of this Satudray, 26 January, because the nationwide transportation strike ends this Friday.

We greet the FMLN units in the western, central, and eastern sector of the country. For 7 days, they maintained the transportation sector's strike, inflicting heavy losses on the Duarte regime's war economy. Strategic blows were dealt to the Duarte regime's war economy, smashing to smithereens the millions sent by Ronald Reagan to the puppet Armed Forces that massacre our people.

We greet the FMLN military units that paralyzed the sugarcane harvest activities through the Pan-American Highway, military roads, Northern Highway, Coastal Highway, and throughout the highways in San Vicente Department. We greet our military units which enforced the transportation strike during 7 days in Santa Ana Department, La Libertad Department, and all the other departments where the transportation strike was successfully enforced.

GUATEMALA

FEB TALKS TO BE HELD WITH UK, NOT BELIZE

PA261651 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] Reports from the new Belize Government in Belmopan have stated that Belize will attend informal talks with Guatemala to be held at the Guatemalan mission to the United Nations in New York. The Belizeans seek to take advantage of the situation and make it appear to the international community as if Guatemala is officially recognizing Belize. Belizean officials have shrewdly stated that the United Kingdom will attend the talks between Belize and Guatemala as an "observer."

According to a statement by the Guatemalan foreign minister, the situation is just the opposite: Guatemala will hold talks with the United Kingdom and Belize will attend as an observer since our dispute is with the United Kingdom, not with Belize. Guatemala has never acknowledged the unilateral independence the United Kingdom granted to this disputed territory.

While it is true that the New York talks starting on 12 February will be "informal and exploratory," they are especially important in view of the current situation in Central America. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the United Kingdom to maintain a permanent defense contingent, which is estimated to consist of 10,000 soldiers equipped with Harrier planes and rapid takeoff helicopters, in Belize. Considering the isthmus' political situation, the British would not like to be caught in a Central American war. For that reason, the British Parliament has debated ending aid to its "former colony" on more than one occasion, and has exerted pressure for a peaceful solution with Guatemala. However, whenever the Belizeans see that there is a possibility that the British will leave, they resort to announcing alleged Guatemalan attempts to invade.

The British presence in Belize had a political cost for the government of former Prime Minister George Price. The opposition, led by Manuel Esquivel, overwhelmingly defeated him in the recent elections. Esquivel has disclosed his intention and wish to find a quick solution with the Guatemalan Government on the Belizean territory. Thus, he wants our country to recognize Belize as a sovereign and independent nation in order to be able to join the OAS and other international organizations. Presently, Belize cannot join because those organizations have statutes barring the entrance of territories.

This is another opportunity for Guatemala to claim its historical right to Belize and to reinforce upon the national conscience that Belize is an integral part of Guatemala, forcibly snatched by an extracontinental and colonialist power, the United Kingdom.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO U.S. -- Eduardo Palomo Escobar was today appointed Guatemala's ambassador to the United States. [Summary] [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Jan 85 PA]

HONDURAS

SUAZO DISCUSSES U.S. NEGOTIATIONS, DEMOCRACY

PA270243 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Speech by President Roberto Suazo Cordova at the installation of the Honduran National Congress' fourth period of meetings, in Tegucigalpa on 25 January -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Despite being in the midst of a dramatic situation prevailing in our convulsed Central America, we have not given up our quest for peace without undermining our security. We want to achieve a common destiny for Central America, a solidarity coexistence, and we will continue to contribute firmly to its achievement with historical responsibility.

Our message of peace has been heard and taken to the farthest regions of the earth, and our support for the Contadora Group's efforts has been honest and unwavering. Only a few in our country question this; they believe that their country is best served with demagoguery and arrogance. They are accomplices of those who threaten Honduras' honest interests here and abroad. [applause]

Our initiatives to achieve a regional peace have been recognized at the international level; the mediators themselves have accepted our proposals as viable and necessary to resolve the grave conflicts that afflict this zone of the American continent. During 1984, my government strengthened its efforts and carried out the appropriate diplomatic contacts to resolve the border problem with El Salvador. Based on these efforts, we promoted a political solution which allows us to safely defend our national interests.

In this regard, 1985 represents a very important year, because the deadline for a direct negotiation expires at year's end, as stated in the 1980 general peace treaty. Therefore, we must be prepared for the firm defense of our sovereignty and rights, clearly proving that Hondurans always chose the path of negotiations and dialogue, which allows a peaceful understanding and the solution of problems between states. All of the Honduran people, without exception, must permanently participate in the patriotic defense of our values. Thus, I confirm that this constant -- not occasional -- unity will represent significant support for our efforts to achieve secure borders that consolidate our integrity and independence.

We have been holding serious negotiations and comprehensive dialogues with the United States to strengthen our cooperation and friendship. My government's efforts have been intentionally and maliciously misconstrued by those who live in shadows, because they cannot accept the light of truth. I state to this honorable assembly, with a clear conscience and with my head held high, that our constitutional government and the Armed Forces, dignified defenders of our people's integrity and our country's honor, will never take a position, no matter how slight, that harms or limits our national sovereignty and dignity.

Honorable Messrs Deputies, we have adopted freedom as an institution that should satisfy all of the Honduran people. Our constitutional guarantees have remained unchanged, even under extremely difficult circumstances when we could have justifiably resorted to extreme measures that others have or would have resorted to in less dangerous conditions. We have acted with full confidence, even when bad Hondurans conspired abroad -- possibly with logistical support in our national territory -- to assassinate the president and take over power illegally and forcibly.

However, we are democrats by conviction and not according to convenience; our democratic principles are ingrained in our moral strength and our people's support. Thus, we believe in the dignity of man, and no one will ever doubt that we have increasingly strengthened a responsible policy that promotes and respects human rights.

Honorable Messrs Deputies, our constitutional government has maintained a constant dialogue with the country's productive sectors so that we may join efforts and seek a favorable solution to our problems. We have always believed that a government best serves its people when it bases its responsibilities on the promotion of unity without selfishness. This attitude advocating a dialogue is and will be my constitutional regime's constant attitude, because it represents the Honduran people. Political, economic, and social democracy should be based on a frank dialogue as the factor to achieve solidary understanding and unity. We will act thus for the remainder of our term because that is my duty and my deep and honest conviction.

We are facing a singularly important and complex year; 1985 will mark our civic determination to consolidate democracy in Honduras. This is a political year, and we must act politically, wisely, cautiously, with courage and a full respect for the law. Throughout this year, the political parties represented in this government branch must give unquestionable proof of their patriotic righteousness, willingness, and understanding because, as I stated here on 31 October 1984 at the conclusion of the National Congress' third period of meetings, the political parties are necessary for the existence of pluralist democracy. [applause]

We will have general elections this year in a historical crossroads that allows us to prove that democratic institutionalization will remain intact in this land of Morazan and Valle, based on all the people's efforts, because democracy corresponds and belongs to all. The Honduran Government, the National Electoral Tribunal, and the Armed Forces will guarantee a free and honest electoral process where full respect for laws and the legitimate defense of our sovereignty replace a gloomy history of fraud, violence, and the use of force. The Honduran people will cast their votes, and the political organization which emerges victorious will have the obligation to proclaim that it is not a unilateral victory, but a victory of democracy, forged by all and for all Hondurans. Minorities will not be able to impose political advantages on the majorities, and the majorities must be tolerant and understanding of the minorities.

NICARAGUAN ARMY SQUAD REPORTEDLY ENTERS COUNTRY

PA262042 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Guillermo Arias Rodriguez, Vox de Honduras correspondent in southern Honduras, specifically in Choluteca, has reported an incursion into Honduran territory by the Sandinist Army. A group of peasants were fumigating a melon field when a squad of the Sandinist Army attacked them and took some of them to Nicaraguan territory. Here is the report for Radio Impacto:

[Begin Arias Rodriguez recording] There has been a new aggression against the national territory. Choluteca is in the news. Honduran peasants were surprised by a squad of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] while fumigating a melon field. The EPS members detained two peasants but released them after questioning them for 1 hour. Don't be afraid, we are on another mission, the EPS members told them. They remained in Honduran territory, more than 4 km inside Honduran territory, for 2 hours.

More than 20 peasants who were fumigating a melon field owned by the Ojo de Agua agricultural cooperative in a place known as (El Congo), in El Triunfo municipality, were surrounded by a squad of 20 members of the Nicaraguan EPS. The peasants fled in disarray, abandoning their equipment. The EPS squad was able to detain Honduran citizen Aurelio Estrada and another individual who has not been identified. After questioning them for 1 hour, they released them unharmed. The news source indicated that when the Honduran peasants were surrounded the leader of the Sandinist squad told them not to be afraid because they would do them no harm since this was not their mission. The EPS squad left Honduran territory after 2 hours. This report has been confirmed by the corresponding police source that deployed a patrol to investigate this new incursion into Honduran territory by the Nicaraguan Army. The Foreign Ministry can now file another protest. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

IRAN'S MUSAVI, DELEGATION CONCLUDE VISIT

Musavi Meets Ortega

LD251735 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, Jan. 25, IRNA -- Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today met and conferred with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. At this meeting which took place on the third and last day of Musavi's official visit to Nicaragua, a number of Iranian and Nicaraguan officials were also present. Thursday night, the Iranian ambassador to Managua hosted a dinner in honor of Musavi which was attended by President Ortega and a number of Nicaraguan officials. Premier Musavi visited a sugar refinery and plantations near Managua, Thursday. He then visited a hospital for those wounded in combat against American-backed anti-revolutionaries.

Denies Arms Deliveries

PA260045 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2306 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Nicaragua does not need our weapons, it is armed with its determination and faith, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said in response to a question regarding the alleged delivery of weapons from Iran to Nicaragua.

When evaluating his visit to Nicaragua, the Iranian prime minister underscored the ties of friendship between Iran and Nicaragua explaining that during his talks with Nicaraguan President Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra they analyzed the problems of the Central American region and the world situation. We have found that our two revolutionary governments share similar ideas, the Iranian prime minister said, adding that in commercial area contacts have been made to achieve in the future an increase in the commercial relations between the two countries. He added that Iran is presently buying large amounts of sugar and meat from Nicaragua and that the number of sacks they purchase will be made public at the right time.

Regarding the terrorist charges made by U.S. President Reagan against Iran, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi was emphatic in stating that Reagan's charge is his way of presenting all those who love freedom as terrorists. Without referring to the Reagan administration by name, the prime minister said that it is responsible for international terrorism.

Our relations with Nicaragua, the prime minister underscored, are not new and they seek truth and justice.

Holds Press Conference

LD260745 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Caracas, Jan. 26, IRNA -- Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Friday castigated President Ronald Reagan's allegations that the objective of his visit to Managua was to cooperate with Nicaragua in terrorist activities.

Speaking in a press conference prior to his departure from Managua, Musavi said, "This is Reagan's usual reasoning to describe freedom-seeking efforts as terrorist activities but does never refer to international terrorism which is being encouraged by the United States." Prime Minister Musavi refuted Reagan's recent statements and stressed that friendly ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nicaragua were aimed at promulgation of justice. He said that the U.S. imperialism would always create poisonous atmsophere against revolutionary countries in order to hinder their cooperation.

He stressed that since the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Nicaraguan revolution had destroyed U.S. interests in two sensitive areas in the world, it was quite natural for the two countries to become targets for U.S. accusations.

Expressing surprise over a question put forward by an ABC reporter that the United States has said Iran was providing arms to Nicaragua, Prime Minister Musavi stressed, "I should say they do not need our arms." He said that bringing up of such an issue by Reagan at a time when the U.S. was supplying all reactionary governments in the world with arms, without ever issuing a statement in this connection, was surprising.

He described his visit to Nicaragua as "successful" and added that he had discussed situation in the Middle East, issues of Latin America, and other world problems with Nicaraguan officals and made coordinations in those categories.

Musavi said that he had reiterated Iran's support for deep-rooted struggles of the Nicaraguan people and government for their freedom and independence. Also, he added, talks were held for trade cooperation between the two countries which would be followed up to give effective results.

Asked on developments in Lebanon, Musavi said that what was happening in Lebanon was the result of U.S. aggressions in the region and its support for the Zionists.

The prime minister and his entourage left Managua Friday afternoon at the conclusion of a three-day official visit to Nicaragua and were seen off by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and a number of high-ranking Nicaraguan officials.

Official on Supplying Oil

PA261921 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[By Horacio Ruiz Pavon]

[Text] The far away Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to supply oil to Nicaragua, said Alavi-Tabataba'i, chief of protocol at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Alavi-Tabataba'i was a member of the high-level Iranian delegation that concluded a 3-day visit to our country this morning.

"Our revolution is in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution because in 1979 these two revolutions assumed power. We will help it because our two countries are anti-imperialists and oppose U.S. intervention," the Iranian Foreign Ministry official said.

Question: Mr Alavi-Tabataba'i, the President of the United States said today that the aid given by governments such as yours and the Libyan Government to the Sandinist revolution represent a serious danger for the Central American region. What do you think of this?

Answer: We help the Nicaraguan Government because it is fighting against the United States. We believe that the peoples of our two countries must live free of the superpowers and have the right to organize their own governments according to their own ideas.

Question: Then, the fact that Libya and Iran are helping Nicaragua is only a coincidence?

Answer: All revolutionary governments must be united to achieve their freedom.

Question: Is there a possibility that Iran will supply Nicaragua with oil following Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit?

Answer: That is correct.

Question: How much oil will your country send to Nicaragua?

Answer: This would depend on the negotiations.

Question: What can you tell us about the almost daily reports from Iran that portray the Iranian people as poorer than during the days of the shah?

Answer: That is nothing more than propaganda from the imperialist networks. The revolutionary countries face problems because they are fighting the United States.

Question: Iran is a country that is far away from Nicaragua. What motivates this solidarity with the Sandinist government?

Answer: Our hearts will always be together. Our two nations wage the same struggle against imperialism.

Question: Iran has been waging a lengthy war against Iraq. Do you feel that the Sandinist government supports Iran in its struggle against Iraq?

Answer: I do not know.

Question: Excuse me, I believe that this is a serious problem for the country's foreign policy and this is why I am asking. Nicaragua and Iran have strong ties of friendship, but so does Iraq which also receives war materiel from the USSR.

Answer: I know nothing about this.

Question: Please tell me, when to you think this war will end?

Answer: It will only end when Saddam [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn] is overthrown.

Question: Can it end any other way?

Answer: No, there is not another way.

FRG'S MOELLEMANN MEETS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS

PA262201 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Minister of State in the FRG Foreign Ministry Juergen Moellemann met today with the board of directors of the National Assembly. The board of directors of the National Assembly, headed by Vice President Clemente Guido and Secretaries Subcommander Rafael Solis, Constantino Pereira, and Domingo Sanchez, received the FRG minister of state and his delegation.

Guido explained to the FRG official the structure of the National Assembly and how it works. He stressed its pluralistic and democratic nature and noted that the first task of this Assembly will be to draft the Nicaraguan constitution. Guido also told Moellemann about the amnesty law approved in the first session of the Nicaraguan parliament. The FRG minister of state commented:

[Begin unidentified interpreter recording] I have also read abou the amnesty law, and without knowing it or learning of any details about it, I think it will be a positive contribution to the political efforts that are being made for a reconciliation among the various groups in the country, and it will also be an important contribution to peace. [end recording]

Later, Solis and Pereira explained the agreements reached by the political parties' summit in which seven parties of various ideologies participated.

It was reported that the Costa Rican Government has accepted the FRG's offer to mediate in its artificial conflict with Nicaragua. The proposal to intervene in the incident provoked by Manuel Urbina Lara, a Nicaraguan who deserted the Patriotic Military Service, was made by Moellemann in Costa Rica after concluding a visit to Nicaragua today. As is known, Costa Rica took the case to the OAS and it, in turn, passed it on to the Contadora Group, which should be the forum to discuss Central American matters.

Views Contadora Support

PA260357 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Minister of State in the FRG Foreign Ministry Juergen Moellemann said last night at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua upon the conclusion of his visit in the country, that the FRG is maintaining good bilateral relations with Nicaragua in the constructive sense. Even though the FRG minister of state said that his government does not want to tell Nicaragua how to behave, he said that he believes cooperation can be increased to develop the Contadora Group's efforts, which Nicaragua supports, and the country's internal situation. He recognized the revolutionary government's efforts to support the Contadora Group, and the interest in signing the peace document; he also praised the proposals presented by Nicaraguan President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, during the inaugural ceremony on 10 January.

Moellemann said last night that his government will continue to support the Contadora Group's efforts, because this is the only way to achieve peaceful solutions in Central America. The FRG minister of state asserted that his government has made every effort to convince the Reagan government to support Contadora, because problems cannot be solved with violence and war. According to Moellemann, he has talked with some high-level officials of the Reagan administration and they have asserted that they are not preparing an intervention in Nicaragua. He regrets that the United States has withdrawn from the talks being held in Manzanillo with Nicaragua. He promised to exert all efforts to convince Reagan to renew the talks.

FRENCH SENATE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA251835 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] A French Senate delegation headed by Jean Francois Pintat arrived today in this capital for a 3-day official visit. The purpose of the visit is to gain information about the political and military situation of this Central American nation. The French delegation was greeted at Sandino Airport by members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Constituent Assembly and by the French ambassador to Nicaragua, Jane Debenest. The French delegation is composed of representatives of the various political forces in the Senate of that European nation. During their stay in Nicaragua, the French senators are scheduled to meet with President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Constituent Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez, and Nicaraguan opposition leaders.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR OLADE MEETING IN BRAZIL

PA261607 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A ministerial delegation led by Emilio Rappaccioli, minister of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE, left for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil today to participate in the 16th meeting of the committee of ministers of the OLADE on 28 and 29 January. The purpose of the meeting is to promote and speed up the implementation of the decisions adopted in the 15th meeting of ministers held in Managua in October. The meeting will also analyze the work carried out by the OLADE Executive Secretariat, especially the implementation of the Latin American energy cooperation program. The committee of ministers will analyze all of the Latin American energy cooperation projects dealing with the evaluation of the region's natural resources, the training of personnel, and the use of alternate sources of energy.

ORTEGA ON DEFENSE, MILITARY MOBILIZATION

PA272059 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] To learn about the cruel reality being faced by our brothers in the north due to the war of aggression imposed by Yankee imperialism, as well as to have the international media, particularly that of the United States, denounce these atrocities, President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez held a "Face the People" program yesterday with the mothers of heroes and martyrs of Jinotega and the orphans who are victims of this unjust war.

The event was held at the Benjamin Zeledon Institute. Hundreds of children and their parents, who gathered there from various areas in the region, expressed their willingness to continue to fight without respite and to give their lives. They were humble men and women of Bocay, Rancho Grande, Yali, San Rafael del Norte, and Waslala, among others.

While they waited for the arrival of the president and vice president who were on their way to the Region 6 accompanied by several ministers and FSLN delegates as well as Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the children enjoyed the happiness brought by the national circus and pinatas.

In direct contact with the afflicted Jinotega people, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega noted that this meeting was being held so that the world, and the United States in particular, would learn that for each dollar approved to finance the counterrevolution, thousands of children, youth, and old people are dying, and schools and health centers are being destroyed.

In addition, all this brings mourning to the Nicaraguan family. What better proof of this is there, he emphasized, than the ambush staged against the inhabitants of Waslala who were coming to this meeting on Friday. This ambush resulted in the death of one child and a mother.

He added that the Reagan administration, in its zeal to justify the war of aggression in Central America and Nicaragua, is now claiming that the visit of the Iranian prime minister to our country increases terrorism in the region. He is saying this solely to convince the U.S. Congress to grant him the $14 million he is requesting to continue financing our people's enemies. But we are sure, he said, that the American people, who identify with our just cause and who are anxious for peace just like us, will exert pressure on the U.S. Congress to reject this new aid.

During the leaders' visit they toured the Apana military hospital where Patriotic Military Service [SMP] youth, reservists, and members of the Battalions for Unconventional Warfare [BLI] are receiving medical attention. They held a very significant conversation with them. The president of the Republic greeted there the hardened combatants who make up the Simon Bolivar and Socrates Sandino BLI's. Ortega called them the true sones of Andres Castro, Benjamin Zeledon, Dario, Marti, and Sandino.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] SMP the Nicaraguan people's sovereign right to organize their defense in the best way [words indistinct] defense of their sovereignty and their territorial integrity, and since they are the Socrates Sandino and Simon Bolivar BLI's [words indistinct] organized at full speed over the past few months we could say. They are but the organized response of the Nicaraguan people to defend above all their right to peace. It may seem somewhat contradictory that with the BLI's, the SMP, reserve battalions, and the people's militias we are defending peace. But there is no other way to defend this right when there is an enemy that is attacking us openly. It is a powerful enemy that can even invade us, as it has on other occasions.

When we organize the militias, the SMP, and the BLI's we are defending the Nicaraguan people's right to peace. We don't have peace in all areas. Things are normal throughout a large part of the country. But at what expense? At the expense of an abnormal situation imposed on the Nicaraguan society. The fact that thousands of youths have been mobilized in the BLI's is not the objective of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is not an objective of the revolution to keep the people under constant military mobilization. On the contrary, it is the objective of the revolution to have a structured and professional military force ready to preserve and defend the country in the face of any situation of aggression. (?And for this reason) we are also preparing the people so that they can defend themselves in the event of any situation of aggression. But when we are suffering the aggression we must move to action and confrontation with those who are attacking us. For this reason we say that we are forced to fight. We are forced to be mobilized [words indistinct]. We wish you could be involved in the coffee or cotton harvests, productive tasks, technical and professional tasks, studies, and health services. That would be the best thing. That would be the ideal thing. [end recording]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA VIEWS AMNESTY, MILITARY SITUATION

PA272118 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] There will be a huge military march with the participation of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the militias on 26 February to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Sandinist People's Militias [MPS]. This announcement was made yesterday afternoon by Defense Minister and Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra during a visit to the Heroes and Martyrs of Zinica Military Training Center where he was able to see the progress made by the militias in their military training.

Minister Ortega Saavedra referred to the mass participation of the Nicaraguan people in the MPS, which is involved in the defense of our country at a time when the mercenary aggression financed by U.S. imperialism has increased. He also mentioned the crushing blows that the Sandinist Armed Forces dealt to the mercenaries in January in both the northern region and the southern border, where hundreds have been killed, wounded, and captured.

He said that to the extent that the enemy is defeated the peace desired by the Nicaraguan people will be recovered. He added: If we reach a peace agreement with the United States, this insane war imposed on us by the warmongering sectors of the Reagan administration will end. If the Reagan government halts its aid to the mercenaries, the annihilation of the enemies of our people would take only a few weeks.

Asked about the application of amnesty for the counterrevolutionaries, Minister Ortega Saavedra said that it will contribute to the efforts for peace in both Nicaragua and Central America. The amnesty decree will enable the counterrevolutionaries who lay down their weapons to reintegrate themselves in the country's normal life and will prevent more bloodshed. This will be the best tribute to the blood that has already been shed, Commander Ortega Saavedra said. He stressed the generosity of our people, who support the measures adopted within the efforts to achieve peace even though they are aware of the harm that the counterrevolutionaries have caused to the people. He added that with or without aid the armed Nicaraguan people will defeat the aggression and the aggressors, because we are ready to resist and to win, even if we have to live in the mountains and eat nothing but corn to do so. He added: We will never yield before the enemy. They shall not pass.

Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra announced yesterday that there will be a huge military march in Managua's streets on 26 February.

[Begin recording] On 26 February we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the MPS. The Army officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and militiamen are intensifying their training and organization so that we will achieve our planned goals for 26 February. We plan to hold a march of thousands of men in Managua to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the militias. Militiamen from throughout the country -- border guard militiamen, peasant militiamen, local self-defense militiamen, urban militiamen, and militiamen in the war zones -- will be represented on 26 February at the events to mark this occasion.

It is important to note that despite the material difficulties in a massive popular training course, there is great enthusiasm and determination to defend our fatherland. There is high morale and spirit. We find old men beside children of 11, 12, and 13 years who join in the country's defense. Material conditions resulting form the massive level of the training of the militias throughout the country are overcome by that high morale and patriotic conscience of the Nicaraguan people and their children, youths, women, senior citizens, and workers in general.

We think that in addition to the efforts that Nicaragua is undertaking to find a peace formula, a formula for stability and for an understanding with the United States that will permit us to deal with our differences within a framework of peace, we must continue to strengthen this type of popular training. We must continue to strengthen our people's participation in the current struggle against the mercenaries. We must continue to strengthen all the measures dealing with the MPS, the reserve infantry battalions, the militias, and, in short, the consolidation of our Army, because so long as that stability and that framework of peace with the United States and the current administration are not guaranteed, our people's most important vital tasks will continue to be those of defense and those directed at repelling and continuing to defeat the mercenary aggression that we suffer from Honduras and Costa Rica. [end recording]

Defense Minister Commander Ortega Saavedra also said that so far this year the Sandinist Armed Forces, the border guards, the militiamen, and the people organized in party structures have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, including dead, wounded, and captured.

[Begin recording] This month is not even over, and we have already been able, through various operations, to deal important blows to some groups that operate on Nicaragua's northern border, in the region of Nueva Segoiva and Jinotega, and those that operate in the country's south, in the regions of southern Zelaya and the San Juan River on the border with Costa Rica. Several hundred dead, wounded, and captured have been inflicted by the EPS, its permanent forces, the militias, and the reserves, with the support of the special units of the Interior Ministry and with the participation of the organized people in the state's mass party structures. This has allowed increased potential to maneuver and deal blows to the enemy.

Since they were unable to implement large-scale plans, at the end of 1984 the contras tried to reorganize and regroup in large contingents so as to sway the debates in the U.S. Congress regarding the renewal of aid to the contras. They want to appear as a very belligerent, active, and powerful force with great potential so that those who want to continue the support to the contras can justify the renewal of that aid to Congress.

We believe that this year will be a very difficult one of great popular effort to deal crushing blows to the counterrevolutionaries and in this way, as we defeat the mercenaries, gradually recover the tranquillity that our people want. In this way we can dedicate ourselves to rebuilding the country, and youths can devote themselves to their studies, their work, having fun, and living in peace and tranquillity as all the mothers and all the rest of us want. The only immediate formula to recover that peace and tranquillity is to crush the mercenaries. In order to crush the mercenaries as soon as possible everyone must participate en masse in this effort. Obviously, the sooner we achieve a peace agreement with the United States, the sooner this crazy and unjust war imposed on us by some sectors of the U.S. Administration will end. Some sectors of certain Central American governments are already realizing that this policy is mistaken, and they are contributing to the achievement of the peace that all of us in Nicaragua and Central America want. [end recording]

TIRADO DENOUNCES 'U.S. MILITARISTIC POLICY'

PA271906 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, issued a call to the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments yesterday to reach a political understanding that will end the armed conflicts in the Central American region. Commander Tirado opened the Fourth Leonel Rugama National Assembly of Unions that is being attended by approximately 200 union leaders.

Commander Tirado urged understanding on the part of the governments involved in this situation so that the U.S. militaristic policy is not imposed. He charged that the United States continues to exert pressure on the Central American countries so that they will adopt a policy of harassment against Nicaragua. He added that despite this situation, Nicaragua will not withdraw from the struggle for peace. We are going to make every effort to stop the war in the country and achieve honorable agreements or treaties that do not harm our independence and sovereignty, Commander Tirado said. Reagan insists on disrupting international law and, in addition to refusing to recognize The Hague International Court of Justice, he has become a criminal who has only been equaled by Hitler in his shamelessness and cynicism, Commander Tirado said.

Referring to the Reagan administration's warmongering activities, Commander Tirado said that the Reagan administration maintains its request for the U.S. Congress to approve $14 million to continue financing counterrevolutionary activity in Nicaragua. In this regard, Commander Tirado reported the campaign that Reagan has undertaken in recent days to find elements to justify the financing of the contras and portray Nicaragua as a country that disrupts peace. Commander Tirado said that Reagan's policy is failing since in recent weeks the revolution's military structures have dealt the contras heavy blows, thus thwarting their plans to sabotage the national economy.

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD PARTICIPATION EXPLAINED

PA251304 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Commander Raul Venerio Granera has asserted that the quest for peace has not been easy for the Nicaraguan Government and revolution, even though we have resorted to all of the international forums to prevent a continuation of the aggressions against our people. Nicaragua is facing a complex situation as a result of the stubborn attitude of the United States and the Reagan administration.

During a press conference, Commander Radul Venerio Granera explained that Nicaragua has been appointed to the vice presidency of the Inter-American Defense Board, IADB, a post which Nicaraguan has occupied since 1 January and one which he will carry out in the next few days when de departs for Washington. Commander Raul Venerio's explaination of the IADB's activities and the role it should play to defend the American continent from extracontinental aggressions follows:

[Begin recording] Nicaragua has been acting as vice president of the IADB since 1 January, when it was elected by the votes cast. El Salvador and Nicaragua sought this position, but Nicaragua was elected. We want to stress the importance that our leadership, revolution, and government gives to Nicaragua's respresentation at the IADB as a country, based on the overall concept of our quest for peace in the Central American area and Nicaragua.

In other words, we will think of the IADB as another trench; we will try to give our modest contribution to prevent a war because the IADB's mission, as stated in its regulations, is to prepare and coordinate the defense of the American continent against any aggression, any extracontinental aggression. The IADB also carries out a consultive role in accordance with its purviews, or a related purview bestowed by the OAS Defense Committee. That is the IADB's definition. This definition was established... [rephrases] The IADB was created after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

We will participate in the IADB with a fundamental goal, our revolution's goal, which is the achievement of peace. In other words, we do not want another Pearl Harbor; however, we do not want another Malvinas either. [end recording]

MSGR VEGA ON DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT, AMNESTY

PA271650 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Concerned with what he called "imaginary speculations" regarding his participation in the installation of the new Sandinist government, Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega yesterday called a press conference. Speaking for himself and not as president of the Episcopal Conference of the church's commission for the dialogue with the government, the bishop of Chontales asked the government what is meant by an irreversible revolution and to explain the different terms "that may contribute to avoiding the alternatives of war and death."

Vega asked which of the following terms describes the revolution's irreversible nature: 1) the internationalist bloc which demands our submission; 2) the imported model that must be imposed by fire and sword at any cost; 3) or the process which defends and guarantees the people their rights as citizens and makes the nation's sovereignty real and efficient? The government of a nation must guarantee and promote the people's self-determination and development. Vega stressed that the Nicaraguan people should discard imported models that enslave our people instead of liberating them.

The bishop said that Nicaragua is at the center of an East-West confrontation caught between the extreme right and extreme left; however, it is necessary to seek our own direction.

Even though he described the country's situation, primarily that in the countryside, as "intolerable," he asked a foreign journalist, who had previously asked a question: Who can escape a fire if there are others fanning the flames?

Vega suggested the opening of a peaceful alternative to counter this obsession with war; in other words, opening our minds to a peaceful change. "We must seek and enforce our own civic alternative that guarantees a just, fraternal, and human change," said Vega in a document which he distributed.

While saying that the church cannot remain on the sidelines regarding the people's sociopolitical life, he said that the church's goal is to collaborate in a process that offers viable alternatives "to defend the sovereign, personal, and social rights of our people according to their social situation," without taking sides or choosing an ideology.

Vega said that the social situation affects man's awareness and that is why the church does not seek new patron saints, but rather the organized and sovereign freedom and dignity of our people.

Vega clearly said that the statements issued during the recess conference do not represent the Episcopal Conference's official viewpoint or the consensus of the all of the bishops; instead, they represent his personal view. Nevertheless, he said that he had consulted several prelates and asserted that they approved of his views.

He revealed that the Nicaraguan peasants are demanding their own land to guarantee their work and rights over what they produce.

Regarding the demand presented to the revolution to achieve peace in the country, he said that if the revolution's irreversible nature means dependence on a new empire, then this is merely a submissive nature.

If the irreversible nature of our revolution means the power to impose an imported model on our people "at any cost," this would be declaring war on our own people and not seeking their development with freedom and justice.

Referring to press freedom, the prelate said that even though press censorship was imposed by the Interior Ministry almost 3 years ago, the newspapers also write about pluralism. When LA PRENSA's journalist asked him what was this press freedom and pluralism, Vega said that it was proven in interviews published by LA PRENSA itself some days ago regarding his statements. LA PRENSA's journalist responded by saying that there are many articles and reports that are censored every day, even if they are not political, and the only exception was regarding the dialogue between the church and the government. Nevertheless, Vega settled the matter by saying that he was satisfied because the News Media Directorate did not impose censorship on the dialogue; he described this as very encouraging.

Referring to priests who are being sanctioned by the church because they hold posts in the Sandinist government, Vega said that this is still under discussion. After the priests receive official notification, the church will wait 15 days to see if they decide to leave their political posts. If this is not the case, the four priests will be sanctioned ipso facto. He said that the sanction will only affect the priests' church activities; however, it will also affect their personal lives because they will not be able to attend any religious ceremony. Regarding Father Edgar Parrales' recent decision to give up the priesthood, he said the decision was quite honest.

When a curious foreign journalist asked if it was true that he had received a sanction from the church, Vega replied affirmatively, saying he had received a sanction when he was holding religious services in El Salvador and that he issued some statements.

In addition, Vega said that for his part he celebrated the enactment of the recent amnesty law approved by the National Assembly. He said: This was the Episcopal Conference's desire, even though the law should have been more generous.

Vega confessed that he attended the inaugural ceremony due to the dialogue being held between the church and the state. Nevertheless, he said that neither party has made any concessions. "It has not involved a reciprocal giving," he said.

While saying that he did not advocate the contras' rash arms buildup, he also said that he did not advocate the Sandinists' rash arms buildup in Nicaragua.

He said that children are being snatched from their mothers in Chontales and Rio San Juan, and that their fathers are being taken to the war front. He said that their living conditions are deplorable and the people are forced to leave their lands because they are afraid of the war.

Regarding his trip to Cuba, Vega said that he must first consult with the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua and the Episcopal Conference of Havana.

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY COMMENTS ON AMNESTY LAW

PA251832 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] The main spirit of the amnesty law is to secure peace for the country. However, this cannot take place within the traditional context that other governments have used when they grant an amnesty, since the framework of the U.S. aggression has to be considered as well. This statement was made yesterday by Subcommander Rafael Solis, first secretary of the National Assembly.

Solis said that this is the main objective from the political point of view. He noted that the passage of the law does not mean that the government is yielding to any kind of pressure or that there are plans for a dialogue and understanding with the counterrevolutionaries as some people have tried to make it seem.

The FSLN leader said that the approval of the amnesty law demonstrates once again that the FSLN and the revolutionary government have firmly decided to continue making efforts in favor of peace despite the U.S. aggression.

Regarding the legal aspects of the amnesty, Subcommander Solis said that legally speaking, this is a pardon and does not apply to persons already under arrest, but to crimes committed by people who accept the amnesty.

Solis explained that any person who accepts the amnesty will be pardoned by the revolutionary government, regardless of the crime he may have committed, and may rejoin society. This is the legal explanation of the amnesty and this is how it must be understood, he said. He added that any person who seeks the shelter of this law will not be arrested and will not face trial. The purpose of this law is to reincorporate into society peasants from the northern region who have been fooled by the counterrevolutionaries.

Regarding the rightist parties' demands that the law also benefit people who have already been captured and who did not surrender or give up their arms, Subcommander Solis said that conditions have not yet been created to do this and that the important thing is to secure peace.

He said: Once peace is secured, we have to continue advancing in the peace process and we can start considering the idea of studying the cases of people arrested prior to the approval of this law. Solis said that it would be contrary to law to act the other way around and release people who have been captured and who have no regrets without having first made efforts to secure peace.

The FSLN leader said that if the conditions are not right for the reintegration of these people into Nicaraguan society, then those who are really counterrevolutionaries could reinitiate their counterrevolutionary activities. He added that pardons have a more restricted character because the objective of a pardon is to consider proposals for lesser sentences, or the pardon of the penalty, but it does not have a more general and strategic scope, such as securing the country's peace.

The amnesty, Solis said, "forgives and forgets" all the criminal activities of the person who accepts it. There cannot be amnesty for prisoners because their sentences have been directed by law, he noted.

Precedents

Solis concluded by saying that there are two immediate amnesty precedents: One is the special decree issued at the beginning of December 1983 in favor of the Miskitos and it was intended to benefit the leaders as well as all the members of the community. This decree has been productive since many Miskitos have reintegrated themselves into Nicaraguan society. Later, a more restricted amnesty was decreed. This amnesty did not include counterrevolutionary chieftains. It was extended on three occasions. From 21 February to 4 November 1984 some 1,600 Nicaraguans took advantage of it.

RAMA INDIANS RETURN HOME, SEEK AMNESTY

PA260431 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Report by correspondent Carlos Ellis Monterrey, in Bluefields -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] From 9 January to date, 52 Rama Indians have returned to their community; some had fled the counterrevolutionary terrorists and others had carried arms. They trust they will benefit from the amnesty decree. More than 500 Rama Indians live in the community of (Ramaki), located approximately 10 km south of Bluefields. A large group fled the counterrevolutionary terrorists some months ago; others decided to join the counterrevolutionary bands. They are now returning and joining the Indian community's activities.

Fifty-two Indians returned during January, fleeing from Cukra River zones where counterrevolutionary camps have been located. The Indians are mostly women and children, but include 13 men who were part of the counterrevolutionary groups. Several Rama Indians said that many other Indians are expected to return in the next few days.

The revolutionary government is financing the local fishing activities as an alternative to develop the community, delivering nets, buoys, and other fishing equipment. The harvesting of coconuts in approximately 50 manzanas is also being promoted. The Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements, Minvah, is building 60 lumber and zinc housing units; the first 5 have been built and some people have already moved in.

MISURA, CREOLES GROUP REJECTS PACT WITH FSLN

PA270302 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Communique issued by the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama, Misura, and Black Creoles organization; date and place not given -- read by unidentified Misura and Black Creoles spokesman]

[Text] The Misura and Black Creoles' political commission reports to the people in Nicaragua, the Atlantic Coast, and the whole world:

In view of the current persecution, torture, and deaths of our Nicaraguan brothers; the martyrdom of our Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Black Creole peoples under the genocidal FSLN regime; and the recent mass murders, bombings, and disappearances of so many Atlantic coast brothers, we condemn as antipatriotic criminals and genocidal accomplices of the FSLN communist system all those who talk, negotiate, or reach pacts with the FSLN criminals who have oppressed our people since the fall of the Somoza regime. We issue a call to our Nicaraguan borthers, especially those on the Atlantic coast, to reject and condemn all those who betray not only the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Black Creole people, but all the Nicaraguan people. Misura supports and will always support those who report on and reject the people who have sold out to the FSLN. In addition, Misura asks our Nicaraguan brothers to support those who today reject the Misurasata-FSLN pact.

PASTORA ON COSTA RICAN LEFTISTS' PLANS, CONTADORA

PA231331 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 2-1

[Article by Benigno Quesada Retana, correspondent in La Penca, Nicaragua]

[Excerpts] Rebel Commander Eden Pastora Gomez has stated that while Costa Rican officials are obstructing his rebels in a number of ways and are seizing their weapons and boats, they do not realize that there are strong leftist groups in our country which are becoming militarily prepared to cause future trouble. Pastora granted an interview to Costa Rican newsmen at the place along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border where he was nearly killed in a terrorist attack last May. Pastora criticized Washington's policies toward Nicaragua as well as the Contadora Group, labeling it Washington's tool.

Pastora recalled that he had once been a member of the FSLN Committee for Defense and Security and for that reason he knows what Nicaragua's plans for Costa Rica are. He also recalled that Managua has sent "a shipment of weapons and trained Costa Ricans; yet Costa Rican intelligence has not bothered to question me about such matters."

The famous "Commander Cero" said: "Costa Ricans are resting on their laurels. I feel that democracy has made them light-headed, and they do not realize what they are doing or what the communists are going to do to them." Pastora believes that "it is not enough to look at the Costa Rican communist party; it has kept quiet, very tight-lipped, so that no one realizes that something is in the works; they are hiding and getting ready so as not to be caught by surprise." The guerrilla leader said that "this situation is going to cost the Costa Ricans dearly in view of the blinders they have over their eyes and in view of the U.S. Government's policies. As has become apparent from the Manzanillo talks in Mexico, the United States does not care if a Marxist regime is established in Nicaragua."

Moreover, Pastora commented that the Sandinist regime does not need to send men into Costa Rica in order to meet their objectives. "Considering the blinders the Costa Ricans have over their eyes and considering that the Costa Rican communist party is armed...imagine, during the past struggle against Somoza a Costa Rican communist party military battalion arrived very opportunistically to place itself at our disposal, but of course, that happened during the final hours," Pastora said. "They arrived in time for tea," he added.

Pastora averred that there are definitely armed leftist groups in Costa Rica. "These groups are militarily structured and are armed; in fact, after the war ended they brought weapons into Costa Rica, I know," Pastora added.

Pastora was very harsh on the U.S.-Nicaraguan Manzanillo talks, which have been shrouded in secrecy. Pastora stated that Washington suspended funds to the anti-Sandinist forces fighting in northern Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) as a result of the agreements it had reached with the Sandinists in Manzanillo. Pastora later said that "whenever the armed guerrilla struggle subsides in El Salvador the FDN has to decrease its actions in northern Nicaragua, because the United States directly controls them." Pastora then criticized the FDN leadership "for not publicly protesting the U.S. policy of trading us to the Sandinists, of negotiating our liberty in exchange for achieving peace in El Salvador."

The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] military leader said that Nicaraguans are using Costa Rican territory. According to Pastora, the Sandinist offensive is aimed against Costa Rica rather than against them. "As we were able to verify, Nicaraguan soldiers continue to disembark north of the Agua Dulce and are occupying Costa Rican territory between Agua Dulce and the mouth of the San Juan River, which delimits Costa Rica's boundary, in order to trap us, because we have again occupied the San Juan del Norte area. That is why Nicaragua is invading Costa Rica," Pastora explained. By the same token, Pastora believes that if Costa Rica is requesting weapons in order to pass them over to ARDE's rebels that would be a very good idea; however, that that is not the case and he advises against it because it would militarize Costa Rica. [sentence as published]

Pastora criticized the Contadora Group's efforts. He explained that the Salvadorans were dragged into the war in order for the group to negotiate the stability of the Nicaraguan Marxist regime with the Reagan administration. [sentence as published] Pastora stated that in the end the Contadora Document will serve to ensure the implementation of the Manzanillo agreements. "The Contadora Group is a U.S. tool," Pastora said.

"People have been fooled into thinking that the Contadora Group wants democracy in Nicaragua," Pastora added. Then, he asked: Has the Contadora Group ever been concerned about freedom of the press in Nicaragua? Has the Contadora Group ever discussed political freedoms in Nicaragua? He replied: Never. The Contadora Group is interested solely in achieving peace between Nicaragua and El Salvador, between Nicaragua and Honduras, and between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, no matter what happens in Nicaragua.

CASTRO DISCUSSES U.S. TALKS, CENTRAL AMERICA

PM241329 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Jan 85 pp 2-4

[Juan Luis report on an interview with President Fidel Castro in Havana and en route to and in Managua: "Latin America Is in an Explosive Situation" -- dates of interview not given]

[Excerpts] "[Cuban dissident] Menoyo is as Cuban as I am, and I am more Spanish than he is." Under his olive green peaked cap, with which he seems to be as indissolubly associated as cowboys are with ten-gallon hats, Fidel Castro gesticulated gently. He is a shy man, slow and deliberate in his speech, hesitant at first, and armored in his huge bulk and his protean verbosity, which makes him talk as readily with his interlocutors about the advantages of swimming with flippers -- "You make greater effort in less time, and even the brain is oxygenated" -- as about the industrial reorganization plan in Spain. His office in the Council of State premises, next to the Communist Party Central Committee building, is dominated by a huge portrait of Camilo Cienfuegos, a portrait which transcends from the figurative toward the abstract. I remarked to him that I was surprised that the communist government on the island has not committed Moscow's attacks on plastic art and aesthetic feeling. Another day we would be sitting aboard his aircraft -- at his unexpected invitation -- or around a table, discussing the situation in Central America, what menu he would offer the Sandinist commanders the next day, and what Leninism in the revolution means.

"After the revolution, immediately after, we had many political prisoners; 15,000, I believe, since there were over 300 counterrevolutionary organizations supported by the United States. Today there are still about 300 left, and they will be released as they complete their sentences. Some of them have not been released before completing their sentences, as happened in the case of the vast majority, because they accumulate breaches of discipline in prison and refuse to wear prison uniform or to comply with other rules. We have never compelled them to do so by force. Menoyo is among them. It must be borne in mind that the revolution had to be defended, must be defended. But, contrary to what happens in other revolutionary countries, we are in favor of those who disagree being able to leave. The revolution is a voluntary task for free men. We do not wish to have the counterrevolutionaries within. I already explained during my stopover in Madrid last February that Menoyo is a terrorist. We cannot release him if in 2 weeks' time he will be in Miami leading Alfa 66 again. Moreover, his stay in prison has given him a martyr's status as far as his followers are concerned. But I will keep the promise which I also made in Madrid; we will concern ourselves with the matter 'later,' in due course. It must be borne in mind that it is difficult for me to explain to our people here the decision to release him, and the past year has been fraught with international tensions and threats. A more relaxed situation will make decisions in this field possible. Moreover, I know that he was born in Madrid, but as far as we are concerned, he is a Cuban. Regarding his participation in the first stage of the revolution, it is indisputable. His brother was a hero, but he was in the Escambray, on the third front, and did not fire a single shot until Havana fell. I was so concerned about the situation at that time that I had to send Che to that region because I was not certain what those people would do. They used to call them the cattle eaters [comevacas]; they said that they spent their time begging the peasants for food, and later they did not even dare to do that. They were given the military ranks they wanted, and I respected them on the triumph of the revolution. Later, Menoyo went to Miami and set up an organization which carried out many pirate attacks on Cuban fishing boats and civilian installations. Then he infiltrated with a small group into the Oriente mountains. That action cost the lives of several peasant militiamen, whose relatives have not forgotten it. Menoyo surrendered within a few days of finding himself rejected by the population and pursued by the peasants themselves. He spoke on television and publicly confessed his stupidity. He was caught and put on trial, and that was the last I heard."

Over 20 years have passed since then; Menoyo is still in prison. "But Alfa 66 still exists. I wish to help [Spanish Prime Minister] Felipe [Gonzalez], and I know that the Menoyo affair is becoming a domestic political issue in Spain. The Spanish Government knows our readiness to cooperate with the Spanish democratic process. For instance, concerning the issue of Basque Fatherland and Liberty [ETA], we were asked by the Madrid authorities to accept in our country six of them who had been expelled from France to Panama, which agreed to receive them only for a few days, and no other country was prepared to do so. This constituted a political danger for us, since we did not wish to be either accomplices or jailers of the ETA members, or to interfere in Spain's internal affairs. We could have been the target for accusations to either effect. However, in order to help find a solution, we agreed to receive them for a 6-month period, which of course, has now elapsed. The ETA members are constantly asking us for contacts with the party in order to explain their political viewponts. We have not done so, nor do we wish to do so, in order to remain totally aloof. But, on the other hand, we cannot prevent people from coming from Spain, from the Basque country, to see them, because they are not prisoners. And I suppose, of course, that messages are exchanged. It is a delicate situation for us, who do not need to find ourselves involved in these problems."

Dialogue With United States

To challenge the power of the United States, just 70 miles from the coast of Florida, for 26 years is no mean feat, even taking into account the abundant Soviet assistance lavished on the island over this quarter century. Judging by his remarks, Fidel seems prepared to establish some kind of more fluid dialogue with the U.S. Administration. In his opinion, a recent agreement on immigration signed with the Reagan administration could open up "prospects of further solutions to outstanding problems."

"At first we were afraid that it was just an electoral gesture, with a view to the November elections. When we saw that U.S. interest in the negotiations continued after Reagan's victory, we realized that there was a readiness and we negotiated in a framework of sincerity, flexibility, and respect. Maybe this is a sign of a new atmosphere. Of course, we will not kneel down before them; they have learned to respect us. During the negotiation of the recent agreement, a spy plane violated Cuban airspace and we broke off the talks until it was properly explained that there was no intention of intimidating or pressuring us. They were interested in resolving the problem of the people regarded as undesirable [excluibles] as residents in the United States among those who traveled to that country via the port of Mariel. Maybe they are having domestic legal difficulties in carrying this out; the attorneys of those whom they wish to return to Cuba are filing appeals in the U.S. courts, and it is not so clear that in all instances they may succeed in returning them, but not because Cuba is blocking their return. On the other hand, a number of Cubans will be able to travel each year to the United States to be reunited with their relatives. It has undoubtedly been a constructive step."

When I asked him whether he believes that this forms part of the new atmosphere of international detente, he replied: "We observed closely the Shultz-Gromyko talks in Geneva; the joint communique is very positive. Maybe Reagan is attempting to go down in history as a president of peace! This concerns both U.S. interests and the rest of the world. In any case, the possibility of discussing the total elimination of nuclear weapons has never been suggested before as it is being suggested now. This atmosphere of detente help us, too."

Visits to Cuba by U.S. jornalists, intellectuals, and ordinary tourists are increasing. Last week three congressmen, a Republican and two Democrats, arrived in Havana to hold talks on how to improve relations between the two countries.

Castro has never denied that he wanted something like this to happen, but he is keeping the population galvanized and united in the face of the threat of a hypothetical U.S. invasion. Having embarked upon his people's war campaign, he is convinced that the Cubans' resistance would make a military intervention by the Pentagon impossible because of the cost in lives.

"I have become acquainted with Jesse Jackson in recent months, and I really do consider him to be an exceptional politician. He currently holds third place in the U.S. popularity polls. He is a real leader and a very estimable man. My fear is that he could be assassinated, as happened to Martin Luther King, and this is what I told him when he came here. He should take greater care of himself. Now he intends to travel to South Africa and visit Tutu, just as he previously visited the pope.... As for the church, we have no problems. And, of course, we do not wish to have any. Moreover, its influence has never been as great in Cuba as in Nicaragua. Do you know what I told Msgr Vega during Daniel Ortega's inauguration? I invited him to visit us. And I had half a mind to suggest that if the Sandinist government gives him a plot of land, we will help him construct a cathedral in Managua, since the former cathedral was destroyed by the earthquake. If necessary, we would bring small brigades of volunteers to do this."

There are hundreds, thousands of Cubans in Nicaragua -- teachers, doctors, and advisers of every kind. Without the Cuban assistance, it would have been impossible to set up the still weak bureaucratic structure and the considerable military might which the Nicaraguans have succeeded in building over the past 5 years.

"We are internationalists. Our doctors are everywhere, not just in Nicaragua; in Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, and the Saharan Republic, too. There are over 2,000 Cuban doctors and health technicians serving abroad in over 25 Third World countries. Yes, troops, too. It would be a mistake for us to withdraw from Angola without the implementation of UN Resolution 435, Namibia's independence, the withdrawal of South African troops to their own territory, and the cessation of all external assistance to the counterrevolutionary gangs through an agreement guaranteed by the UN Security Council. The Angolans would accept our withdrawal only under these conditions, and gradually. South Africa is close and Cuba is very distant. The Angolans have the justified fear that South Africa, through the counterrevolutionary gangs of a direct attack, would then begin final military pressure against the Luanda regime. You can see what has happened in Mozambique since the N'Komati agreement between Maputo and Pretoria: The gangs remain highly active. And without South Africa, the gangs are powerless. That is why our presence in Angola is still essential. Of course, if the Angolan Government requested it, we would not wait a minute before beginning our withdrawal."

"In any case," he continued, "it is not Africa that should worry the United States. In black Africa there is no class structure which could cause a social explosion. However, this could happen in Latin America, where large masses of peasants, workers, students, intellectuals, and the middle class are in an increasingly desperate situation. One must be very blind not to see it. Look at Chile; not even the Americans like Pinochet any longer. They know that the longer he lasts, the greater the danger of radicalization and an explosion in the country. Look at Peru; what will Alan Garcia find when he receives the presidential sash? An untenable economic situation, insoluble social problems, and a guerrilla band in the mountains whose increasing activity nobody can understand because nobody really knows how it thinks and what Shining Path is and intends. People frequently talk superficially about subversion exported from abroad to explain these problems. They do not realize that revolutions cannot be exported, nor can they be prevented when a set of uncontrollable factors make society explode."

"Latin America is in an explosive situation, I say. Added to economic underdevelopment, the grave accumulated social problems, unequal trade, the export of profits, and the flight of capital, which are now traditional, there are now the international crisis, an enormous foreign debt, high interest rates, protectionist measures dictated by the industrialized nations' selfishness, and the impossible policy applied by the IMF.

"Austerity efforts and sacrifices cannot be demanded from populations already bordering on the subsistence level which have seen their living standard plumet over the past decade. For instance, Alfonsin is grappling to the limits of his powers with the conditions imposed on him for the refinancing of a $45-billion debt, which is not the responsibility of the current government or of the Argentine people. They confront him with the dilemma of adopting measures which will ruin the democratic process or resisting the IMF's insatiable demands, unconscionable interest rates, and the repayment of a huge and unrepayable encumbrance. An even graver situation must confront Uruguay, with a $5.5 billion debt, exports worth only $1 billion per year, and the people's living standard reduced by 50 percent. Likewise, Brazil's democratic process and Neves' new government will face a $100-billion debt. In Santo Domingo, the IMF forced the government to send out the Army and the police to fire on the people, killing dozens of citizens.

"The critical situation is being repeated everywhere. Not to repay the debt is the only alternative left to Latin America, and I do not say this because of Cuba; its debt in convertible foreign exchange is relatively small, and it is one of the few Third World countries willing and able to repay it without this entailing great sacrifices. Moreover, I am not saying that nonrepayment of the debt is the solution to Latin America's problems; it is just the first condition for beginning to resolve them. In the case of the private banks, the states of the industrialized nations are perfectly able to shoulder the debt, which is not so high if it is compared with the huge sums of money earmarked for military expenditure. More than the whole of the Third World's accumulated debt is spent on these aims in a single year."

"Mexico is essential; in fact, it is the key. As long as it remains firm -- and it must be said that its conduct is admirable -- Contadora will go ahead. The question is what changes in the document are being sought: It is humiliating for Contadora to accept Washington's aims regarding the right to set up military bases in the Central American area. In my opinion, this is one of the most crucial points. There are other aspects which have contributed to the current deadlock. If there is flexibility, good faith, and the will to find political solutions, the remaining difficulties can be surmounted.

"In my opinion, the problems connected with verification will be no obstacle, since it benefits Nicaragua more than anyone. It should be efficient and practical, without seeking to reduce the Central American states to the status of supervised municipalities.

"Moreover, it should not be forgotten that for 3 years hostilities have been conducted against Nicaragua, organized by the United States from bases located in neighboring countries. However, this has always been denied. And how can Nicaragua be asked to begin to disarm as long as an international war imposed on it from outside continues? If the problem of the 8,000 or 10,000 mercenaries within the country, on the border with Honduras, is not properly resolved, the peace agreement could become an N'Komati for Nicaragua.

"Moreover, it would be unrealistic to seek to resolve the problem of Central America while disregarding El Salvador. It is essential there to encourage and support dialogue and a negotiated political solution between the FMLN-FDR and the government. I have exchanged views on these issues in Managua with the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, and Colombia, expressing to them my conviction that it is possible to surmount the problems still remaining and offering them Cuba's full support and cooperation."

CASTRO RECEIVES U.S. BISHOPS DELEGATION

FL251346 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1221 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received a delegation from the U.S. National Catholic Bishops Conference. The delegation, headed by Msgr James Malone, president of the U.S. National Catholic Bishops Conference, has visited different areas during its stay in our country.

Willing To Meet With Pope

PA260138 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2040 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Havana, 25 Jan (DPA) -- Msgr James W. Malone, prpsident of the U.S. Episcopal Conference, said today in Havana that President Fidel Castro told the U.S. bishops visiting Cuba that he is willing to meet with Pope John Paul II in Havana or in Rome.

At the end of a 5-day visit to the island, Msgr Malone said that the pope's possible trip to Cuba was not discussed during the 5-hour meeting he held yesterday with the Cuban president, but that is was informally discussed at a dinner given at the Apostolic Nunciature.

The U.S. bishops asked Castro whether he knew the pope and the Cuban president admitted that 2 years ago he had invited the pope to visit Cuba, Msgr Malone added.

Msgr Malone also said that the bishops insisted that it would be a "good idea" if they could meet personally and they suggested that he issue a new invitation, to which Castro answered that he would be willing to receive him in Havana or travel to Rome.

Another member of the delegation, Msgr Bernard Law, archbishop of Boston, said that Fidel Castro did not approach any political subjects during yesterday's meeting which was also attended by Msgr Patrick Flores, archbishop of San Antonio, Texas, and Father David Gallivan.

"However, I did notice his interest in detente and the search for peace that for the U.S. Catholic Church must be based on dialogue as a basic step," Msgr Law added according to a report issued by PRELA, the Cuban news agency.

COMMENTARY VIEWS DISCOVERY FLIGHT, 'STAR WARS'

FL260300 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Commentary by Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] The U.S. space shuttle Discovery which was not able to take off last Wednesday due to the extreme cold, took off yesterday from Cape Canaveral surrounded by strict security measures and absolute silence.

The Discovery is part of the space militarization program, and although this is the 15th flight of this type of space vehicle, it is the first flight with a secret military mission, eve though something is known about this due to the indiscretion of THE WASHINGTON POST.

Reporters were not allowed to know details of the flight, but it is known that the Discovery will place a spy satellite in orbit over the Soviet Union which is able to intercept radio, radio telephone, and satellite communications and carry out surveillance of possible Soviet rocket testing. This is related to what has become known as Star Wars which refers to a space research program the United States has begun in order to establish a nuclear war system from space. No one must think that a war in space is around the corner. It is just an idea, a project which will need several years of research, testing, and development. The Discovery is a step in the plans, and is within the military shcool of thought whose objective is to assure U.S. superiority in space. Some Pentagon generals believe that military superiority in space will allow the country to survive a nuclear war.

On the sandy atoll of Kwajalein, part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, the United States has an ultra-secret operations base working on preparing for the future Star Wars. Some 3,000 military personnel, engineers, technicians, and civilian workers with their families work in on Kwajalein amid huge radar, giant telescopes, and ultra-modern video cameras. Some 20 times a year an unarmed Minuteman rocket is fired form Vandenberg base in California 8,000 km away to later fall in the Kwajelein lagoon. On 10 June 1984, a rocket of this type was fired from Vandenberg base and intercepted at a height of 166 km, before reaching its destination, by an antiballistic rocket fired from Kwajalein Atoll in a successful military test. This was something like destroying a bullet in the air with another bullet.

Some U.S. experts have said that if there is a third world war it will take place in space, and Reagan has decided to achieve superiority in this area. These are two parallel lines, talks such as the ones initiated in Geneva, and plans for military superiority, which include space as one of the battlefields, perhaps the most important one. The Discovery goes up with military equipment which works in favor of war. Here on earth, millions of humans remain with hopes that talks started in Geneva will lead to the triumph of reason, pragmatism, and peace.

UNREST, IMF MEASURES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VIEWED

FL251800 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 25 Jan 85

["Commentary" by Oscar Ferrer and Juan Martin, during the "Revista de la Manana" program -- live]

[Excerpts] [Martin] Today's subject is the Dominican Republic, where a tense situation is worsening because of President Salvador Jorge Blanco's statement regarding the signing of the IMF accord and the increase in fuel prices, which has caused tension. The president of the Dominican Republic, Salvador Jorge Blanco, has announced economic adjustment measures to be taken before the country signs the agreement with IMF. This Caribbean nation's grave economic situation has been made worse by political inconsistency regarding existing problems that has led the present administration to submit to the dictates of the IMF. We all remember that in April 1984 violent clashes between thousands of militants and the police occurred as a growing protest movement against the application of these one-sided measures that directly affect most of the citizens of the Dominican Republic. Sixty-two dead, almost 5,000 people arrested, and hundreds of wounded or injured people resulted from the violent clashes that occurred in April. Neverthless, in view of the tense, critical economic situation the nation is facing, President Jorge Blanco today decreed an increase in the prices of fuels, electricity, and basic consumer goods. When he announced the decree, which went into effect yesterday, he surrounded himself with his top military leaders and, in the midst of a tense critical situation, as we said before, the president mobilized virtually the entire Army, had the police arrest dozens of opposition and trade union leaders, including several leading businessmen, and issued the decree that the people and the trade unions have rejected energetically.

[Ferrer] The so-called economic adjustment measures adopted by Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco in the past few hours in preparation for the agreement the government intends to sign with the IMF, as you said, worsen the Dominican economic situation and could be described as a prelude to new outbreaks of popular violence caused by the opposition to these antipeople measures. The new increases in the price of gasoline and other petroluem products, the readjustment of the cost of electricity, and a further devaluation of the currency followed the indiscriminate increase that had been decreed in the last few days on essential consumer goods. Furthermore, increases will be made in the cost of public transportation very soon. It is also known that the agreement the Dominican Government will sign with the IMF, as former President Juan Bosch said recently, is based on the condition that thousands of jobs be eliminated. Bosch also said the government of Salvador Jorge Blanco had decided to sign with the IMF, accepting these mesaures, and so has placed the monetary sovereignty of the state in the hands of the IMF. Bosch also said that the IMF cares nothing about the fact that 50,000 workers will lose their jobs, and that what the IMF wants and is interested in is that the foreign banks that have lent money to the Dominican Republic recover their loans. Dominican politicians, economists, and labor leaders have warned repeatedly and with severity that the new agreement with the IMF will unleash new social protests in the nation like those that took place on the 16th when a bus and a motorcycle were burned in the streets of San Francisco de Macoris, located 120 km from Santo Domingo. The General Central Organization of Dominican Workers and three teamsters' unions have also warned that, if the price of gasoline and other essential commodities is raised, there will be demonstrations and protests. Increases in the price of foods and medicines in the Dominican Republic were precisely what provoked the popular demonstrations, the clashes between the people and the police and Army last April that caused dozens of deaths, hundreds of injuries, and thousands of arrests. For this reason we believe it is logical to expect these measures announced by the Dominican president who, in this way, submits to the demands of the IMF, to cause new outbreaks of violence in the next few hours or days.

[Martin] The head of the national police of the Dominican Republic, Major General Ramon Matos Gonzalez, has said that the measures taken by the government -- illegal entries, arrests of the main leaders, whether opposition leaders or not -- are due to a great leftist plan to subvert the nation. This is what the Dominican Government wants the people to believe in its attempt to go ahead with its plan with the IMF and qualify for larger loans and so resolve the problems of the richest sectors of the population of the Dominican Republic. It must be remembered that the economy of the Dominican Republic depends absolutely on agricultural products such as sugar cane, and we all know that at the present time sugar is selling for less than three cents [per pound], and the Dominican Republic has no stability in its balance of trade. The foreign debt of the Dominican Republic amounts to nearly $3 billion and the Dominican Government has been unable to pay even the interest on this debt, which is so enormous for such a small Caribbean nation.

[Ferrer] It must be stressed that the Dominican economic situation is chaotic. One half of the Dominican people receives only 13 percent of the national income while about 100,000 peasant families have no land to work. In the cities, unemployment is running at 40 percent, and the underemployed account for 10 to 15 percent of the population. Furthermore, in rural areas unemployment is running at more than 50 percent of the working population. It is under such deplorable conditions for the Dominican people that the government of Salvador Jorge Blanco has imposed new price increases on specific articles.

[Martin] I believe the measures imposed by the Dominican Government are a detonator that may cause violence of transcendental importance for all Latin America, bearing in mind the grave economic situation of most of the Latin American nations.

GOVERNMENT RAISES PRICES OF BASIC PRODUCTS

PA262225 Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 25 Jan (AFP) -- An avalanche of increases, by almost 50 percent, in the prices of basic necessities was announced today in the Dominican Republic, increasing social tensions amid heavy military and police surveillance throughout the country. Salt, cement, rice -- a basic element of the national diet -- sugar -- the country's main export -- bread, pasta, steel rods, construction material, nails, eggs, poultry, soybean oil, toothpaste, chocolate, powdered milk, laundry soap, and canned sardines were all affected by this wave of increases. The increases were ordered by the Industry and Commerce Ministry with the implementation of Law 13, a consumer protection law which fixes the top price to be paid for a series of products of mass consumption. According to estimates, the average increase is 50 percent. The resolutions which were published in today's newspapers once again created tension among the population since these new increases in the cost of living may unleash further violent protests. These new prices will be added to the 50-percent inflation rate recorded in 1984. Some outbreaks of violence were reported in the outlying neighborhoods of Santo Domingo where tires were burned in the streets. These actions were immediately controlled by the military and the police, and an undetermined number of arrests have been made. Meanwhile, the interior of the country was reported calm. The only problem was in San Francisco de Macoris, 180 km north of Santo Domingo, where last night four persons received buckshot wounds and several dozen were arrested during a confrontation when the police tried to break up a demonstration.

Riots Erupt

PA260252 Paris AFP in Spanish 0148 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 25 Jan (AFP) -- Today excited Dominicans looted a food warehouse of the National Institute of Price Stabilization (Inespres), it was reported in this capital. Milk, rice, sugar, and other foodstuffs were taken to a nearby low-income suburb, but the police, who patrol the city street by street, quickly controlled the looters, using tear gas bombs. The police later initiated a strict inspection of Los Gandules neighborhood. One home was searched, sacks of food were recovered, and several dozen suspects were arrested, the police reported tonight. The looting erupted in a very tense atmosphere that has prevailed during the past 2 days in this Caribbean Republic, after the government decreed price increases for fuel and adopted unpopular measures of adjustment as required by the IMF. The IMF imposed these conditions in order to give the country financial aid, as a standby agreement, in order to provide new money to the Dominican Republic so that this country can meet its foreign debt, which surpasses $2 billion. It was unofficially reported that at nightfall a bakery was also attacked on the outskirts of Santo Domingo, but the police described this as an isolated incident and added that things are normal and tranquil throughout the country.

Quiet Reported

FL251702 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Things are quiet in the Dominican Republic after protests in some cities yesterday. Security forces in the country are patrolling major cities to prevent possible demonstrations against a 34 percent increase in the price of gasoline. Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco raised the price in a speech late Wednesday night boosting gasoline from 91 U.S. cents to $1.22 per gallon. The security forces began random police checks on Tuesday in anticipation of the announcement; traffic in Santo Domingo, the capital, yesterday was not affected by the threat of protest. The incidents were limited to tire and vehicle burnings and resulted in some arrests.

MEXICAN DELEGATION CONCLUDES CARICOM TALKS

FL261618 Bridgetown CANA in English 1540 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 26, CANA -- A delegation from Mexico left Guyana last night after two days of talks with senior officials of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat on a wide range of matters including an expansion of trade as well as joint industrial and energy development, it was officially announced.

The discussions were concerned with an evaluation of the results of the activities so far undertaken under an agreement concluded between Mexico and Caricom in 1974, and were in preparation for the next meeting of their joint commission, a Secretariat statement said.

The range of matters considered included the expansion of trade, the development of transport links, financial cooperation, joint industrial development, energy development, and cultural and educational exchange, the release said.

It said attention was also given to the identification of mechanisms for the further study of these matters so that they could be formulated into a programme of projects for consideration when the joint commission meets towards the end of the year.

The Mexican delegation was led by Luis Efren Bauza Garcia Cano, charge d'affairs of the Mexican Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago. The team also included Jorge Perez Galicia, deputy director general of the Division of Economic Belateral Relations of the Ministry of External Affairs, and Jorge Chapero, third secretary of the Mexican Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica.

BARBADOS

DLP EXPECTS ADAMS TO CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS

FL252312 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 24, CANA -- Barbados opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) said today it expected Prime Minister Tom Adams to call general elections between March and November. The sooner, the better, opposition leader and DLP chief Errol Barrow told a news conference.

Barbados' next general election is not constitutionally due before next year, but speakers at the recent convention of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) repeatedly stressed the need for the party to be prepared for the poll.

Late last year Prime Minister Adams said there would be two Christmases before the next general election. His BLP won 17 of the 27 seats in the 1981 poll.

Barrow, head of the Barbados Government from 1961 to 1976, said he would lead his DLP into the next election and would accept the prime ministership again if the DLP emerges victorious and that's the desire of his elected colleagues.

The DLP has already selected 23 out of its 27 candidates, he said. The party holds the other 10 seats in the House of Assembly.

GRENADA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BROKEN WITH NORTH KOREA

FL251826 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Grenada has broken off diplomatic relations with North Korea. The two states had established ties in May 1979, 2 months after the coup which brought Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to power. After the U.S. invasion of Grenada in October 1983, that country -- that is, Grenada -- broke off diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and Libya.

POLICE FORCE GROWS TO 475 WITH NEW RECRUITS

FL231658 Bridgetown CANA in English 1604 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 23, CANA -- Grenada's police force now numbers 475, just 55 short of its projected strength. The current roll was swollen by an intake of 49 recruits last Saturday, police sources said. They will first join a group of serving police and prison officers in a four-week course conducted by United States Army instructors. Later they will attend the police training school for 14 weeks.

The sources said that the force has increased by 69 per cent since the political upheaval of October 1983, when a bloody Army coup triggered a U.S.-led invasion of the island. They added that the target of a 540-strong force should be reached by mid-1985.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HUDSON TANNIS ELECTED SVLP POLITICAL LEADER

FL231432 Bridgetown CANA in English 1349 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Jan 23, CANA -- Former Foreign Minister Hudson Tannis was elected last night to succeed former Prime Minister Milton Cato as political leader of the opposition St Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party (SVLP). Tannis, a lawyer, beat former Trade Minister Vincent Beache on the second ballot at a special SVLP convention attended by 200 delegates. He won 67.5 per cent of total votes cast, as against 32.4 per cent for Beache. Member of Parliament John Thompson was also in the race.

Cato, the party's leader for all its 30 years, stepped down in November, four months after the SVLP lost the government to Prime Minister James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP). Tannis, Cato's deputy for several years, was the main casualty in the July 25 election, losing his West Kingstown seat to newcomer John Horne, now information and tourism minister. Under party rules, the person holding the office of political leader must receive at least 60 per cent of ballots in the election.

Yesterday's election took place as the SVLP prepares to contest a by-election on February 14 in which it will seek to retain the East St George parliament seat held for over 20 years by Cato until his retirement form politics last year. Lawyer Donald George will be the SVLP's candidate. The party holds four seats in the 13-member House of Assembly.

PNC TO BEGIN 'CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE' WITH PPP

FL261602 Bridgetown CANA in English 1526 GMT 26 Jan 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 26, CANA -- Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) has announced it expects to begin constructive dialogue shortly with the opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) in the interests of national unity, promoting development, and guarding against imperialist intervention.

The long-rumoured closing of ranks between President Forbes Burnham's socialist government and the Marxist parliamentary opposition here was announced last night by deputy PNC leader and former Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid as he addressed the party's second highest decision-making forum, the General Council. Reid said the decision that the PPP be invited to hold formal talks at the leadership level as early as possible was taken after in-depth debate and discussion inside the PNC.

The initiative, he said, was being undertaken in the wake of careful and serious examination of the global, political, and economic situation and the party's examination of the role of imperialism globally, and the objective and subjective conditions in Guyana. The party hopes that the constructive dialogue with the PPP will lead to various forms of co-operation at several levels: that co-operation between the two parties would further cement the unity of our people and help channel their energies into the development process, Reid said. Through the further cementing of unity, it is also hoped that, as a nation, we will be able to guard against imperialist intervention, further the process of socialist construction, reduce waste, and enhance national development, he added.

Reid's disclosures were greeted with prolonged applause form the scores of party officials, heads of public corporations, and senior personnel from the state-owned newspaper and radio stations. He told the meeting that the Guyana Peace Council (GPC) headed by PPP chief and opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan, and the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP), the PNC equivalent, headed by former information minister and now chief political adviser to Burnham, Elvin McDavid, were already cooperating and working together on several issues.

For months now there had been persistent but unconfirmed reports here of secret talks on a possible coming together of the PNC, which is dominated by blacks and the predominantly Indian PPP.

Burnham was the first chairman of the PPP in 1950 and became the party's education minister after the 1953 elections. But the following year, differences between himself and Jagan triggered a split in the party. When the Jaganite faction won the 1957 elections, Burnham decided the following year to form the PNC.

The new PNC initiative comes amid fresh efforts by the financially beleaguered Burnham government to seek closer ties with the Soviet bloc. Guyana's socialist policies have tended to hinder its access to Western aid for many years now, aggravating the economic crisis facing this South American Republic. Washington has blocked some aid flows to Georgetown, and the government's continued indebtedness to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has hindered its efforts to secure a much-needed 150 million dollar U.S. balance of payments support loan from the IMF.

Finance Minister Carl Greenidge announced in his 1985 budget this month that Guyana would be placing more emphasis this year on trading with nine socialist countries: the Soviet Union, East Germany, Cuba, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, China, North Korea, and Brazil.

ANTICOLONIALIST INDEPENDENT PARTY CREATED

PA242048 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Cayenne, 24 Jan (AFP) -- The creation of the Nationalist Party of the Anticolonialist and Anti-imperialist Guyanese (PANGA), an independent party, was announced today by its spokesman, Michel Kapel, at a press conference in Cayenne. The spokesman explained that the objective of the PANGA militants is to struggle to achieve Guyana's independence, making use in principle of peaceful means, without dismissing a "war of armed resistance" if necessary. Kapel, who is a mathematics professor, did not give any deadline for his party to achieve its objectives.

According to the spokesman, the militants of the new organization will be American Indians, children of "Marrone" Negroes of African origin, children of "Creoles" (in the Guyanese sense of the word,) Caribbeans, and other inhabitants of the country. "PANGA," in Guyanese Creole means: "Be careful; attention."

The new party will not use terrorist forms of struggle and has no "privileged relationship" with the Caribbean Revolutionary Alliance, ARC, movement. Finally, PANGA "deeply supports" the independent Kanaks and the Kanak provisional government led by Jean-Marie Tjibaou.

TUC ON TAX INCREASES, WAGE HIKE, COST OF LIVING

FL261630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1622 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 26, CANA -- The Guyana labour movement says recent tax increases here will erode government's latest minimum wage hike and produce a 20 to 30 per cent rise in the cost of living. Leslie Melville, press spokesman for the Trade Union Congress (TUC), umbrella body for the movement here, said its conclusion was based on an analysis of the 1985 budget and its impact on the work force. Higher (8-25 per cent) consumption taxes on a wide range of goods, including kerosene, cement, clothes, bandages and refrigerators, have just been announced here, along with increased fees for driving and motor vehicle licences and TV sets. The taxes follow a rise in the minimum wage from 12.79 dollars to 15.10 dollars a day (one Guy doll: 23 cents U.S.).

Melville said the analysis by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge of last year's economic performance here was misleading when it is considered that, by the budget's own estimate, real income per head was lower than in 1983, and this was still lower than in 1970 and one third below that of 1975. Melville said it must be the concern of the nation that sugar production for 1984 was the lowest for the past 30 years and that the output of rice was about 40 percent below past peak outputs, and, in spite of the increased production in the bauxite industry over 1983, the performance of the industry was still way below its past performances. He said it was unfortunate that the minister failed to inform the nation of the rising levels of unemployment, which now stand at over 30 percent. The TUC, he added, was more interested in knowing how many new jobs would be created in 1985 instead of the veiled threats made by the minister when speaking about the structural changes the government intends introducing. The TUC, he said, agrees with the government that increased production and productivity must be our immediate goal if we must turn the economy around by a more favourable balance of payment position and a narrowed government deficit, but this would not be achieved by financial tinkering but by a larger socio-eonomic analysis and approach. Melville said what is needed at this stage was an investment in people by a realistic wage and salary structure and an extended dialogue between the government and the people of Guyana as represented by their organisations.